

ATURDAY MARCH 5



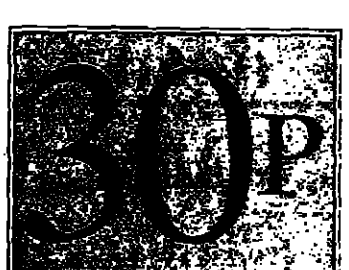
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FRANK SINATRA
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to retire gracefully
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THE TIMES

No. 64,896 TUESDAY MARCH 8 1994

Drive to curb power of Brussels

I shall fight on as leader, says Major

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN Major tried yesterday to head off the threat of a summer leadership crisis by making plain that he will stay on as Prime Minister even if the Conservatives are badly beaten in the European elections in June.

Dismissing renewed speculation about an autumn leadership challenge, Mr Major declared: "I was elected at the last election with the largest vote any party or party leader has ever had. I was elected to remain Prime Minister of this country at least until the next election and beyond if I win the next election. I have never run away from a challenge in my life. I am surely not doing so now."

His move to strengthen his personal position came as he and Douglas Hurd launched an attempt to unite Conservatives on Europe in the run-up to the June 9 elections. The Foreign Secretary is chairing a committee drawing up the manifesto for the elections and his delicate task will be to bind together the Eurosceptic and centrist wings of the party.

He and Mr Major indicated yesterday that they intended to do this by concentrating on trying to curb the growing power of Brussels and improve the running of the European Union, while steering clear of such divisive issues as the single currency

and the union's long-term future.

Mr Hurd took the first step last night when he told European politicians and bureaucrats to cut red tape and unnecessary law-making, crack down on fraud and concentrate on making the EU work. It was time for a "truce on rhetoric" he said.

"The union must be careful not to over-legislate," he told the Belgian Institute for International Affairs. "What we do, we should do well; what we would do badly we should not attempt. The temptation for every legislator is to spend his time legislating. It is after all the power which our electors give us. It requires self-restraint and confidence to know when not to rush into print."

The EU was now doing less and doing it better, but in some areas it was still doing too much and not well enough. There is a danger that we legislate to feel good, not to do good," Mr Hurd said. "Nowhere is this truer than in social legislation. The warm glow comes quickly after passing a piece of law which is designed to raise standards for those in jobs; the chill of lost jobs because of lost competitiveness is felt more slowly."

Mr Hurd also urged the community to crack down on fraud, which he said was a drug that weakened Europe.

Nobody knew how much money was disappearing and the catalogue of crime was depressing: double payments of subsidies, cattle smuggling to avoid customs levies, social fund cash being used to build private villas.

Both Mr Hurd and the Prime Minister, in a radio interview earlier, pledged to fight any attempts to weaken the right of individual governments to veto European legislation against their national interest. Britain is anxious to prevent the admission of four new EU members diluting that power of veto.

Mr Major told Jimmy Young that he intended to fight the elections on a "distinctly British Conservative manifesto for the future of Europe", and he tried to scotch suggestions that he could be threatened if the Tories did badly. His approach pleased close colleagues, who believe that pressure on the Prime Minister will ease if the Tories can hang on to 20 of their existing 32 seats.

Asked about a potential challenge and support for Michael Heseltine, Mr Major said that similar rumours had circulated last year but had failed to materialise. "It is an extremely good story for a small number of journalists to pursue, but it is not real."

The Prime Minister rejected much of the criticism against him and denied allegations that he was weak and indecisive. "If that were really true, I doubt that I would have survived the last three-and-a-half years. Some people think you should shout and scream and bang the table to show you are a strong leader. That is not in my nature."

Asked whether the postponing of him in the press would affect his credibility, he replied: "That has been going on for quite a long time. It hasn't in any way changed the way in which I seek to run the Government." He had set long-term objectives and stuck to them. "The thing that matters is what emerges at the end of the struggles, not what vitriol may be hurled during that time."

Mr Major also denied that the Government was "riddled with sleaze." "That had never been true. Rumours and innuendo do not make fact," he said. "There has been a frenzy, but I know the Conservative Party. I know the Conservatives in it. I know my colleagues. I know their worth and I know their honesty."

Young's recipe for a meaty interview

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

IN 45 minutes yesterday, Jimmy Young managed to tease out of John Major more than many of Fleet Street's finest political editors did in three days with the Prime Minister on his recent trip to America. How does a 70-year-old man who made his reputation with a daily recipe do it?

"I'm like a boxer — train hard, fight easy," he said yesterday. And fight he does. Sir Edward Heath allegedly once threatened to shoot him, and Baroness Thatcher reacted to some of his comments as if she had been bitten by a pet hamster. But she still appeared on his Radio 2 show 14 times. He has interviewed every Prime Minister and Chancellor since 1963.

The secret of his success is painstaking research, which involves digging out every press cutting on his chosen subject and committing them all to memory.

He also has an advantage



Young trains like a boxer for interviews

over lobby correspondents in that he meets politicians outside his studio only rarely, and has neither the need nor the inclination to court them. His subjects are given no warning of questions and there is no time for friendly off-air chat before the interview.

"My style has never been confrontational," he says. "But I have always been able to bite."

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Veto defended, page 14
John Biffen, page 18



Platt, left, and Venables, in tandem at Bisham Abbey training ground yesterday

Venables picks Platt as England skipper

TERRY Venables, England's recently appointed soccer coach, yesterday named David Platt captain of the side to meet Denmark at Wembley tomorrow. Platt, bought by the Italian club Sampdoria last season, has not played for an English team since 1991, but, as Venables said: "David is really in international football every week."

For Venables' first match in charge since he succeeded Graham Taylor, he is hoping Platt will be as successful as in his first game as captain, when he scored four goals against San Marino at Wembley 13 months ago.

Platt has stood in as captain seven times. "I've been asked if it's going to be difficult to captain a side that has so many natural captains," he said. "It actually makes it easier. They're going to play their usual game. It's vital to have as many leaders on the field as possible."

His leadership as a goalscoring midfielder has made him, at 27, football's most expensive player. Released by Manchester United as a teenager, he progressed via Crewe Alexandra and Aston Villa to the Italian league, where after spells with Bari and Juventus he joined Sampdoria. In total, his transfer fees amount to almost £17.5 million.

Platt's leading role, page 48

Prior mediates in Malaysia

Lord Prior, the former Cabinet minister, could hold the key to ending the Britain-Malaysia trade dispute. He is expected to meet Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, at a time of suggestions in London that an emissary might be used to mediate "at the highest level".

Boy charged with killing pensioner

By Edward Gorman

A BOY aged 13 appeared in court in Bournemouth yesterday charged with the murder of Phyllis Saville, a pensioner who was stabbed as she walked to Wimborne Minster Church, Dorset, on Sunday.

Mrs Saville died from a single wound inflicted by what police believe was a kitchen knife. She was found in a deserted car park by a 90-year-old friend, also on her way to church, but died before she could be taken to hospital.

The boy, who comes from Wimborne, cannot be named for legal reasons. A stocky figure with short, cropped fair hair, he stood in the dock wearing a denim shirt, blue jeans and training shoes. He spoke only once during the 15-minute special hearing, to confirm his details.

The boy was remanded in custody to secure local authority accommodation, and no application was made for bail. The case was adjourned to Wimborne youth court on March 14.

The death has shocked the quiet Dorset town, popular with retired couples. Last night there was a prayer vigil at the scene of the attack attended by Mrs Saville's two sons, John Saville, 54, a local government officer from Derby, and Hugh, 45, a sales manager from Twickenham.

Town mourns, page 5

Pupils 'at risk' on school trips

Children on school trips are at risk because teachers fail to check instructors' qualifications and potentially dangerous hotels are used, the Consumers' Association said, criticising the Education Department for refusing to legislate on activity holidays.

Gold galore among Prince's stolen jewels

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Prince of Wales lost a 21st birthday present from the Princess Royal among jewellery worth hundreds of thousands of pounds stolen in a burglary at his flat in St James's Palace last month.

The 18-carat gold Hunter pocket watch was engraved with Prince of Wales feathers on the cover and the inscription: "Your loving sister 14 Nov 1969". Details of the watch were given in list of valuables issued yesterday by Scotland Yard nearly two weeks after the burglary.

The items are readily identifiable and will be difficult to sell unless they are broken up for their stones.

Other items stolen include two pairs of Fabergé cuff-



Among the stolen jewellery, from left, were the Princess Royal's gold watch birthday gift, Fabergé cufflinks and a pair of cufflinks given by the Queen Mother

links. One pair was made for the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II. Made with rose diamonds and sapphires, they were a christening gift to the Prince from Prince Ludwig of Hesse.

Another pair of onyx and rose diamond cufflinks bear the cypher of his grandfather George VI and were a christening present from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The thief climbed in on the night of February 23-24. The Prince was away skiing.

The list released yesterday also included a second pair of rose diamond Fabergé cufflinks set in blue enamelled rock crystal and mounted in yellow gold. This pair was

bought by the Prince. There was also a pair of white gold cufflinks set with sapphires and square diamonds, a pair of 18-carat gold cufflinks finished square, a pair of 18-carat yellow gold cufflinks with circular surface engraved with the Prince of Wales feathers and "Air Squadron", and a pair of oval 18-carat

cufflinks with a chain link and with a hand-painted enamel Union flag and the Greek flag.

The Prince also lost a pair of silver Annabel Jones cufflinks with a blue enamel bar link, a pair of 18-carat round cufflinks with raised sapphire centres and sprayed diamond leaves and a pair of oval, 18-carat yellow gold sleeve links, one set with the initial C in diamonds, the other set with Prince of Wales feathers in white gold and diamond — a gift from the Duke of Norfolk.

The list also mentioned a brilliant diamond fox mask stickpin in white gold with ruby eyes, a pendant stickpin in yellow gold and coloured enamel and an enamel and white gold stickpin with Prince of Wales feathers.

'Double figure' death toll feared

By Bill Frost

A SEVENTH body was found yesterday in the cellar of a terraced house in Gloucester. Police believe they are close to discovering an eighth, and there are fears that the total could reach double figures.

The seventh set of human remains was found shortly after police resumed digging at 25 Cromwell Street just after 7.30 am. Radar scanning equipment, first used to detect mines during the Falklands war, later indicated another spot to dig. The results of that search are expected today.

Professor Bernard Knight, a Home Office pathologist, arrived yesterday to begin examining the seventh body, thought to be that of a young woman.

News of more human remains was given immediately after Frederick West, a 52-year-old builder who lived at the house, was remanded in custody for three days after making another appearance before Gloucester magistrates. He is charged with the murder of his daughter Heather, 16, Shirley Anne Robinson, 18, and an unidentified woman in her twenties.

A police spokeswoman said: "We are working on the theory that all the bodies found so far are female. We have not got positive identification, but that is the idea."

Police revealed yesterday that once they had completed their search at the house they may begin digging at a field in Kempey, on the border with Hereford and Worcester. Senior officers would not comment on reports that they were looking for up to 20 bodies. Privately, however, it is acknowledged that the enquiry is far from complete.

The Missing Persons Bureau has seen calls tumble in the past few days as the number of bodies in the Gloucester house continues to rise.

House of horrors, page 5
Ludovic Kennedy, page 16

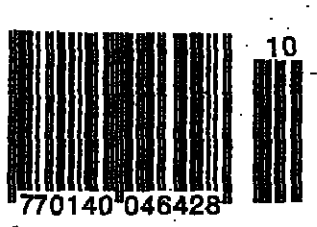
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Patent Office

Major sets up enquiry into Smith talks leak

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister set up an enquiry yesterday into the leak of a private meeting he held with John Smith, the Labour Leader, on anti-terrorism laws.

John Major made clear that he shared Mr Smith's anger when details emerged in a Sunday newspaper about their secret meeting last Wednesday to discuss the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Downing Street officials said the Prime Minister was satisfied that no one at Number 10 had leaked the information. However, he has now told both the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office to conduct their own enquiries.

Yesterday Labour welcomed the investigations but emphasised that they should be "thorough and successful".

At the meeting last week, Mr Smith pressed Mr Major to amend two key areas of the legislation so that Labour could support the Act, which it has refused to back since 1983, when it comes up for renewal in the Commons tomorrow.

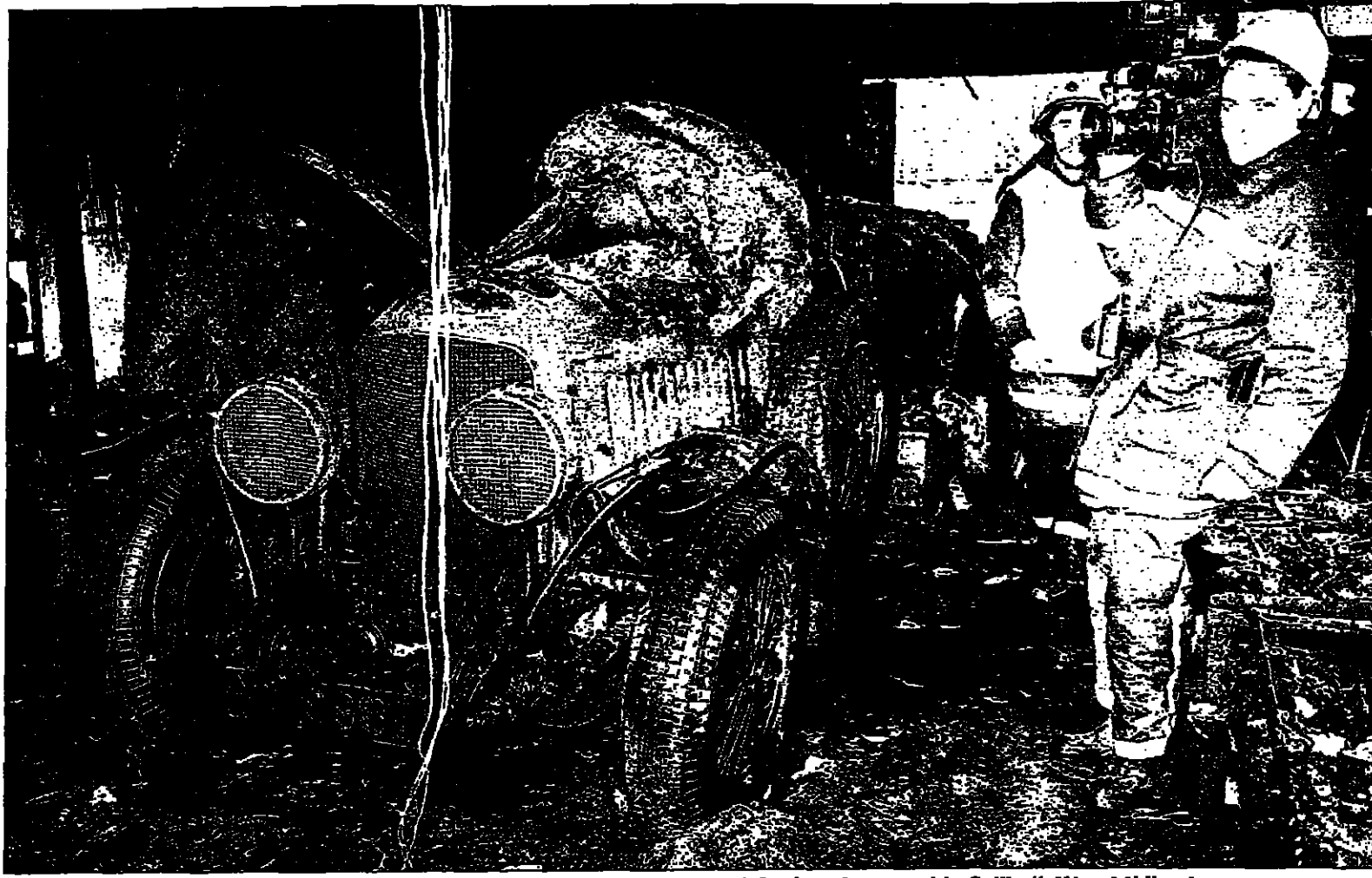
He asked the Prime Minister to oppose the provision banning someone suspected of or linked with terrorism from mainland Britain but allowing him to walk freely in Northern Ireland. Mr Smith also wants to ensure that the extension of a suspect's detention from four to seven days is approved by judicial review rather than the Home Secretary.

Yesterday the Prime Minister made clear that the Government would not agree to Mr Smith's demands. "We looked very carefully at what John Smith proposed. I decided it was not in the interests of the proper working of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to adopt the proposals he put forward," Mr Major said on BBC Radio 2.

He said: "I have already put enquiries [into the leak] in hand. He [Mr Smith] and I have had many meetings in the past. It is important that we hold these meetings in private. It should not have been leaked."

Mr Smith was said to have been annoyed that Mr Major disclosed that he was not according to Labour demands in a radio interview, rather than responding personally to him. Labour is now set to vote against the Act.

While Labour appeared to be pointing to the Home Office for the source of the leak, aides there insisted they were not responsible. On Sunday Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, denied he had been responsible. Northern Ireland sources were equally confident they would be cleared.



Wrecked in the blaze: one of the vintage cars stored at Excel Engineering's yard in Solihull, West Midlands

By Andrew Pierce

Fire destroys seven Bentleys

SEVEN vintage Bentleys, including the first one ever built, were destroyed in a fire yesterday. The owners of an engineering company in Solihull, West Midlands, where the cars were housed, were injured as they fought the flames.

The worth of the vehicles damaged was estimated at up to £6 million, a figure which includes the £1 million value placed on the original three-litre Bentley, built in September 1921.

Jim Pike and Graham King, the owners of Excel Engineering, which specialised in restoring and repairing vintage Bentleys, set up the firm about 20 years ago.

Fire broke out at the back of one of the Bentleys in Mr Pike and Mr King's repair yard at the company premises at Duckin Farm. The yard contained a timber-clad barn with an asbestos-lined roof. Mr Pike and Mr King were working

in the barn when the car caught fire.

Within minutes the flames had spread to the other vehicles. More than 25 firemen arrived at the scene to fight the blaze, but they were unable to prevent the cars from being gutted. Firefighters were hampered by the presence of oxygen cylinders and propane gas cylinders in the barn.

Two of the cars had been shipped from South Africa

one is going to get a terrible shock. There was millions of pounds of damage caused today. The value of the original Bentley was at least £1 million.

Mr Pike and Mr King were too upset to talk. Of the 3,000 Bentleys made between 1921 and 1931, when the company went into liquidation, about 1,200 are still in existence.

The Bentley Drivers' Club has the Prince of Wales, Prince Michael of Kent, Peter de Savary and Eddie Shah among its 2,800 members.

Prior mediates in Malaysia rift

From Christopher Thomas
in Kuala Lumpur
and Arthur Leathley

A former Cabinet minister is in Kuala Lumpur for talks as both parties to the trade dispute seek a balm for wounded egos

HOPES of an end to the trade dispute between Britain and Malaysia could rest this week with Lord Prior, the former Cabinet minister.

Lord Prior, chairman of GEC, is understood to be meeting Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, in Kuala Lumpur to try to end the argument. His visit coincides with suggestions in London that an emissary might be used to mediate "at the highest level" between the two governments.

Malaysian government sources said they had been informed that Lord Prior might bring a letter from John Major, although the Foreign Office refused to confirm that he might act as a formal link.

It became clear yesterday that ministers in both countries are increasingly anxious

to heal the wounds that opened up two weeks ago when Dr Mahathir announced that future government contracts with British firms would be blocked.

Constant contacts through the British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur and the Malaysian High Commissioner in London are thought to be bringing the two governments closer together.

Behind the anti-British rhetoric still flowing from Malaysia there is a growing sense within the Kuala Lumpur government that the trade ban has achieved its aim and should be moderated or lifted.

There seems a real prospect that Kuala Lumpur will soften its position although that may fall short of a full policy

reversal. In London, ministers are under pressure from Tory MPs to resolve the dispute as soon as possible in the face of threatened job losses in companies depending on Malaysian contracts.

Attempts to calm the dispute could be threatened today, when MPs are likely to subject Lord Younger of Prestwick, the former Defence Secretary, to a fierce interrogation over his dealings with the Malaysian government.

Lord Younger, who admitted last week that he incorrectly linked a £1 billion defence order with the promise of £200 million in aid, will be pressed to disclose full details of his meetings and correspondence with Malaysian ministers in 1983. His interrogation by the

foreign affairs select committee is likely to be made more intense by yesterday's revelation by Najib Tun Razak, the Malaysian Defence Minister, that there was a direct connection between British aid and the arms deal.

He said a memorandum of understanding, sealing the arms sales in September 1988, stated that aid would be given for a civil project.

That contradicted evidence given to the committee last week by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who said "the question of aid was not covered by the memorandum of understanding on defence sales".

The issue is central to whether arms sales were linked to subsequent promises of aid towards the Pergau dam project, a link that would breach government policy. Lord Younger's evidence today, and that of Sir Nicholas Spreckley, the former High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur,

is seen by MPs as crucial as they are the first people to appear before the committee with direct knowledge of the events of 1988.

The Malaysian government all but conceded yesterday that the dam might be uneconomic. Samy Vellu, the Energy Minister, said it would have been cheaper to build if Malaysia had not agreed to give the contract to Balfour Beatty in exchange for a loan that ballooned to £305 million at less than 1 per cent interest.

Had Malaysia opted for normal tender processes, the dam might have been completed for £73 million less.

In Kuala Lumpur yesterday, opposition parties demanded an end to the trade ban, which they said required parliamentary approval and was harmful to the country's long-term economic interests.

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Editor accuses minister of appeasing Mahathir

By Christopher Elliott

THE editor of *The Sunday Times* last night hit back at a government minister's allegations that his newspaper was guilty of "fanciful exaggerations" that had needlessly endangered tens of thousands of British jobs.

Andrew Neil said that Richard Needham, who made the accusation in a radio interview about the Pergau dam affair yesterday, was an insignificant, unknown politician who had been delegated to please the Malaysians.

Mr Needham, the trade minister, told Radio 4's *Today* programme: "The Malaysians are entitled to fair and factual reporting instead of the bombast we get from Mr Neil in *The Sunday Times*. It's not unreasonable to expect that from what is meant to be a responsible newspaper."

His comments relate to the paper's story two weeks ago that a middleman acting for the construction firm Wimpey had approached Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian

Prime Minister, with a \$50,000 bribe to secure a contract. The Malaysian government denied the claim and singled out the story as a crucial reason for Dr Mahathir's imposition of trade sanctions.

Mr Needham's criticism was the most strident yet from a government minister. He accused the paper of dragging up a story from nine years ago



Needham: "unknown and insignificant"

about an alleged offer of a bribe in connection with an order for a British company that was never actually awarded.

Mr Neil, who is in India, said that Mr Needham's remarks were bordering on the absurd. "The idea that tens of thousands of jobs are at stake is just absolute nonsense. It's just business propaganda. Most of the contracts that we have got are for capital goods, which employ almost nobody."

"It's rather suspicious that he is saying these things when the talk coming out of Malaysia is that the attitude is softening. I am wondering whether there isn't a kind of deal where the British Government beats up on the British press and Malaysia says 'thank you very much, everything back to normal'."

Mr Neil said *The Sunday Times* would continue investigating the affair. "British taxpayer's money is involved, for which politicians have to be held accountable."

Charity to aid victims of torture

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING lawyers, churchmen and others yesterday launched a charity to help victims of torture pursue their claims against torturers and to campaign for new legal remedies.

Keith Carmichael, honorary director of the new charity, the Redress Trust, said: "Torture has become epidemic - 123 states now practise torture. But at present victims of

torture face many obstacles when seeking redress.

"Most enforcement measures are inadequate - too few victims obtain compensation, their torturers remain unpunished. Too often the attitude of governments is to not to make waves, lest trade with human rights abusers be jeopardised."

In the United States, the principle of claiming compensation has already been accepted under the 1992 Torture Victim Protection Act. In Brit-

ain, the 1988 Criminal Justice Act provides that an offence of torture carries a maximum sentence of life.

However, the trust says fresh legislation is needed, both to establish foreign governments' liability under British jurisdiction and to restrict the use of immunity as a defence.

The trust is helping four torture survivors obtain compensation in the United States and has been approached by 33 more in other countries.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Thou shalt pay attention in maths

Dead afternoons at Westminster are the time for beachcombing. Ambles along the parliamentary seashore: examine what the tide has left behind; lift up a few rocks. You will be surprised at some of the odd creatures that crawl from under.

Glance, for instance, at the *Official Report*. Did you know that rather before midnight on Wednesday last the *Monster of Welwyn*, David Evans (C, Welwyn Hatfield), led a debate on Back to Basics, attended by 12 Cabinet ministers and 20 junior ministers?

Did you know that worried Members are adding their names to an Early Day Motion about seal penises, put down by Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW)? Or that a motion framed by David Alton (Lib Dem, Mossley Hill) about the injection of scorpion poison genes into cabbages to kill caterpillars is going the rounds in the Commons tea room? But forget the scorpion genes and seal penises and follow me to something more gruesome...

David Evans MP is becoming better known, even than when he was chairman of Luton Town football club. To call him loud-mouthed is to understate. Beneath that bluff exterior lies a bluff interior. But to call him stupid (as some do) is seriously to mistake a shrewd self-made man.

Mr Evans's grandest constituent is the Marquis of Salisbury, and Evans may not quite be what the nobles at Hatfield House had in mind; but there is both cunning and charm concealed within the burly frame of Hertfordshire's best known directors' box philosopher. He may talk like Eliza Doolittle's dad, but the chauffeured Jaguar that awaits him at the Members' entrance speaks for itself. It is not luck that got Mr Evans elected to the executive of the Tory backbench-

ers' 1922 Committee. The entire Cabinet having failed (in Evans's view) to tell the nation what Back to Basics means, Evans decided to do so himself in an adjournment debate last week.

More than half the Cabinet were there to listen as he called a number of his colleagues "spineless jellies who have gone wobbly and are wittering on about dropping Back to Basics".

"Let me share with the House," he continued, "the ten commandments of Welwyn Hatfield." The people of Welwyn Hatfield:

□ know when to say please and thank-you, and raise their hats to a lady
□ offer seats to ladies
□ help old ladies and gentlemen across the road
□ form an orderly queue
□ never drink and drive
□ do not steal
□ never rape
□ never murder
□ know adultery is wrong

By way of illustrating this last commandment, Mr Evans added that he intended to "stick with Janice" (his wife). With that, he left the ten commandments of Welwyn and moved on to discipline in schools.

Discipline was not what it used to be. Evans observed that when he was a child "the whole class would stand to attention when the teacher entered, and lessons were conducted in silence".

Perhaps the young Evans was so exhausted after his journey to school, doffing and lowering his hat, offering his seat, forming an orderly queue and helping old ladies over the road, or so rapt as he stood silently to attention when the arithmetic teacher entered, that he had missed what the teacher wrote on the blackboard. For, while the MP was speaking, some of the Cabinet were counting.

The ten commandments of Welwyn only add up to nine.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunbed rays give woman skin cancer

A woman has been diagnosed as suffering skin cancer from sunbed exposure to ultraviolet rays in what is believed to be the first case to establish a direct link. The unnamed woman had decided to get a tan before a holiday by using a sunbed. She contacted specialists at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, when she developed skin irritation about a year ago and the disease was diagnosed.

Dr Peter Farr, a consultant dermatologist at the infirmary, said: "We can be absolutely definite the sunbed has caused her skin cancer." After a chest tumour was diagnosed a precancerous growth on her buttocks was found. In each case, the only exposure to "sunlight" had been the rays of the bed.

20 years for owning gun

A man who had a rifle which had been used in one of Ulster's worst terrorist atrocities was jailed for 20 years yesterday, but a judge at Belfast Crown Court found Mark Rice, 24, of Dundonald, not guilty of aiding and abetting in the murders of five Catholics gunned down by Loyalist paramilitaries in a bookmaker's shop in the city in 1992.

70 dogs poisoned

More than 70 dogs were poisoned in England and Wales last year, according to government figures. The dogs, 20 of which were farm dogs, had eaten bait intended for vermin or carelessly stored chemicals. Nicholas Soames, a junior agriculture minister, criticised illegal use of poisons and said the figures were only a proportion of the true total.

Ritz sentence halved

A ten-year sentence on a man who demanded £120,000 from the Ritz Hotel by threatening to injure guests and staff was halved by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Michael Darling, a former hospital radiographer from Hastings, East Sussex, became depressed after an unsuccessful move into the private medical equipment field.

Award for green Archer

Linda Snell, busybody in the BBC radio soap opera *The Archers*, has received an award for services to the countryside and the global environment. To mark its 100th issue, *Country Living* has chosen her to be among 100 recipients of its green rosettes, along with the Prince of Wales, the actress Joanna Lumley and the rock group U2.

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Town in mourning after death of 'everyone's favourite grandmother'

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE stabbing of 85-year-old Phyllis Saville, while she walked to church on Sunday morning would have shocked people anywhere. But the fact that it happened in the relative tranquillity of Wimborne, Dorset, in the heart of the South Coast retirement belt, has left the tightly-knit community in a state almost of disbelief.

Police in the town cannot remember the last murder in Wimborne, about half the 7,500 population of which is made up of elderly women. Until this weekend, the town was a byword for peace and quiet, hardly a place for such an unprovoked attack.

"If an old lady can't walk safely to church at 9.30am to a place like Wimborne, it's a very sad day," said Canon David Price, who was among those who rushed to Mrs Saville's aid as she lay dying on her way to join his congregation at Wimborne Minster.

"She was everyone's favourite grandmother. She was very deeply, deeply loved... especially by the older generation," he said. Mrs Saville was a

singular woman of tremendous vitality and energy. A mother of two sons, she was headmistress of a local prep school and married to a solicitor in the town who died some years ago.

Since the death of her husband she had moved into a purpose-built block of flats opposite Wimborne police station, close to the middle of the town and her main hobbies, the church and the museum.

Mrs Saville was a local councillor in the mid-1960s and went on to become the first woman governor of the church, of which she was also

a warden. She was also a founder and lately president of the town museum, the Priest's House.

She was also involved with the friends of the local hospital: she was a governor of the local secondary school and a director of the management company which ran her apartment block.

"She wasn't a flamboyant sort of person. She was one of those who worked hard in the background," said Krystyna Bradbury, the mayor of Wimborne. "She was a typical unsung hero of community life and will be missed by so

many people," Mrs Bradbury said.

At the museum, which Mrs Saville started with her husband in 1962, the sense of shock at her death was palpable. This week she would have joined other volunteers preparing for its Easter opening after the winter closure.

"She'd have been helping cleaning up for springtime, polishing the brasses and copper," said Stephen Price, the curator whom she worked alongside in her role as president. "She was an inspiration. Through her work in education she had become excep-

tionally perceptive — as problems arose, I used to seek her advice. The community has been deprived of somebody who gave so much to it."

Mr Price hopes that the various organisations with which Mrs Saville was involved will join together to create a memorial for her.

Ros Cuff, a local shop owner who has known Mrs Saville all her life, described the killing as wicked. She said: "I've known her most of my life. She was a lovely, gentle lady. She was into everything in the town — you name it, she was there."

Mrs Bradbury sought to reassure the elderly women of Wimborne that despite Mrs Saville's killing, the town is still a safe place.

"They should not feel that they can't walk in our streets because this is not the sort of incident that happens everyday."

"It's an aberration for this town, something unprecedented. They shouldn't feel threatened or frightened by this — that would be terrible," she said.



Canon David Price, who rushed to Mrs Saville's aid outside Wimborne Minster



Boy charged, page 1



Phyllis Saville: "Unsung hero of community life"

TB among homeless increasing

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THERE are more cases of tuberculosis in Britain than had been thought, according to a survey that says one in 50 homeless people may have the disease. Crisis, the homeless charity, suggests the numbers affected have reached levels of developing countries and New York, where drug-resistant strains have emerged.

The number of cases in Britain has risen by nearly a fifth over the past six years and doctors expect 6,000 to be reported this year. The sharpest increase has been among women aged 25-44. The disease was declining until the mid-1980s.

Dr John Moore-Gillon, consultant lung specialist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said: "The figures from the Crisis survey don't surprise me. But if confirmed, they will show the level is higher than we realised."

Overcrowding, homelessness and the increase in refugees from countries where TB is endemic are blamed for the rising incidence.

Leading article, page 19

Father who raped baby is jailed for life

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FATHER who raped his 13-month-old daughter was jailed for life yesterday.

The man aged 30, from Exeter, who cannot be named, carried out the attack after he barricaded himself in his home. He had been on a 12-hour drinking session sparked by an argument with his wife.

Dr Richard Orme, a consultant paediatrician, told the trial at Exeter Crown Court that the baby's injuries were the worst he had seen in 30 years of practice. He said two assaults of considerable force would have been necessary to cause them.

The defendant, who did not give evidence, told police he was not responsible for the injuries and that the child must have strained herself going to the toilet. He was convicted of rape, another sexual offence and grievous bodily harm.

Judge Neville told the father: "The simple fact that anyone could be so depraved as to commit these offences reveals you are a danger to the public, especially to small children, and will remain one for a considerable time. There is no report of any man having committed such dreadful offences as these."

The judge said the man should serve at least ten years before being allowed to apply for parole.

There were shouts of "scumbag" from the public gallery as the man was led from court.

Woman nearly died after attack in car park

A WOMAN nearly died after being attacked while on a shopping trip, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Doris Thompson, 46, was knocked unconscious when a man hit her on the head with a baseball bat. She was in the car park of the Sainsbury's store in East Sheen, southwest London, loading food for a church function into her BMW when the attack took place last July, Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, said.

Mrs Thompson, of Belgrave, a businesswoman and voluntary church worker, suffered severe injuries. The court was told that she was put on a ventilator and needed operations to remove two blood clots on her brain. "She is fortunate to have survived," Mr Pownall told the jury.

He said that the day before the attack, Madeline Mold, who was also loading shopping into a BMW, had been threatened by a man wielding a baseball bat in the car park of a Waitrose shop in Wandsworth, southwest London.

Mark Henry, 25, of Kibbourn, northwest London, denies attempting to murder Mrs Thompson and causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He denies causing an affray in relation to the incident with Mrs Mold.

The court was told that the man had raised the bat above Mrs Mold's head but then two customers appeared. He left the car park when staff threatened to call the police. The trial continues.



John Brightman, left, and his accuser Thomas Barrett

Veteran declared war on Iron Cross holder

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO war veterans who had been acquainted for 27 years became enemies when one discovered that the other had been awarded the Iron Cross.

Thomas Barrett, 71, a former British serviceman, was appalled when he found that his Hungarian-born neighbour was the holder of Nazi Germany's highest military honour. He decided to expose him in a leaflet bearing a photograph of Holocaust victims and the caption: "John Brightman proud to fight for the Nazi cause. One million Jews murdered in John's homeland."

The leaflet, which he handed out at a local market, made several accusations against Mr Brightman, who fought for the Royal Hungarian Army in the war and was awarded his medal for valour. Barrett, a former mayor of South Kirby, West Yorkshire, alleged that Mr

Brightman was a coward who had attacked women and children and led SS terrorists in raping "poor, defenceless women" and that his decorations were false.

The men fell out in October 1989 when Mr Brightman offered to lend his medals for an exhibition in Doncaster. Yesterday the dispute ended at Castleford Magistrates' Court, where Barrett was convicted of distributing a grossly offensive article.

Mr Brightman told the court: "I never fought for the Nazi cause. I fought for the Royal Crown of Hungary." The War Crimes Unit at Scotland Yard cleared him of the allegations last year.

Barrett, who denied the charge, was fined £100 and a further £200 for breach of a court order. After the hearing he said: "I will carry on trying to prove my point. I am not going to bury the hatchet."



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Judge suggests performance link for barristers' legal aid earnings

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COURT of Appeal judge is suggesting that barristers' legal aid fees should be directly linked to their performance in court.

At a time of concern among senior judges at the high fees paid in some legal aid cases to top barristers, Lord Justice Henry, who presided over the Guinness trials, is proposing a key role for judges in controlling the level of fees.

He is recommending that after every substantial criminal trial, judges should give their views on the performance of counsel in the case to the official who fixes legal aid fees, the so-called determining officer.

Lord Justice Henry, who

■ The bench could have a role in controlling fees by rewarding or penalising counsel according to their conduct of a case

chairs the Judicial Studies Board, the body in charge of judges' training, sets out his views in the newsletter of the Criminal Bar Association.

Judges can ensure that competent counsel are properly rewarded where "much time has been saved by early identification of the issues resulting in a trial properly focused on the essentials". Equally, he adds, they can see that incompetent, unprepared, persistently late, prolix or rude barristers are penalised.

"Our system badly needs a summary remedy in the

hands of the trial judge to be used at the first sign of "playing the system", he says.

However, Lord Justice Henry acknowledges that judges may not always know the difficulties of defence counsel, such as an awkward client or incompetent solicitors. There should therefore be a routine formal meeting with counsel in chambers, at the end of the trial, where, in the presence of a shorthand writer, they will consider what the judge is to include in his report.

Legal aid rates of pay, even for experienced barristers at

the top of the profession, are much less than the earnings from private practice where £300,000 or more a year are common. But some QCs have increasingly earned close to those figures on legal aid.

One barrister's clerk said yesterday: "Probably the most a QC could earn on civil legal aid would be £150,000 a year but if he has a mixed practice the figure is more likely to be £200,000-£250,000. With criminal legal aid, which is not so well paid, the yearly figure would be nearer £150,000 to £175,000."

Recently a QC and a junior barrister in a criminal appeal that lasted four days in the House of Lords submitted a legal aid bill totalling £107,000, including VAT.

In another three-day House

of Lords civil case, a QC claimed a brief fee of £25,000 with daily "refreshers", as they are called, of £2,000.

Lord Justice Henry's comments come at a time when there has been concern about duplication of barristers in civil legal aid cases, resulting in a massive drain on the legal aid fund. In one case in 1992, 11 barristers were involved at an estimated cost of £1 million. In a child sexual abuse case last year Lord Justice Butler-Sloss complained that a child's mother and grandparents were represented for 20 days in court by separate lawyers.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is at present looking at how to curb high legal aid fees in civil cases, including capping them.

Former bus driver peer takes the cross-country route

MICHAEL POWELL



Lord Teviot, 59, a former bus driver and conductor, walked 40 kilometres across the South Downs from Steyning, West Sussex, to his home in Balcombe yesterday to mark the fortieth anniversary of the charity Counsel and Care for the Elderly. The old Etonian peer, a genealogist who was a director of Debut's and Burke's Peerage, visited residents at nursing homes in Haywards Heath and Hurstpierpoint on his walk

Plan to halt sport decline in schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

GOVERNMENT advisers are considering plans to make competitive games a compulsory part of the national curriculum until the age of 16 to counter fears of a decline in school sport.

Physical education, like other subjects, is being slimmered down to make the curriculum more manageable and give schools greater flexibility. The subject has been allocated 5 per cent of school time in the new system, which will be introduced next year.

Advisory groups, due to report by the end of the month, have been instructed not to reopen debate on the style of the curriculum or add to its content. But growing controversy over team games has encouraged the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to make an exception.

Competitive games are already compulsory up to the age of 14 but pupils are then given a wider choice of activities, including dance. Most opt for at least one team sport and that would become the minimum requirement if the change is approved by the authority and John Patten, the Education Secretary.

Mr Patten has been on the defensive since the Prime Minister gave his backing to a campaign by Iain Sprouat, the Sports Minister, to restore the place of team games in schools. Last week, Mr Patten announced plans for specialist sports academies but the initiative has not satisfied critics, who blame schools for poor levels of fitness among teenagers and the waning fortunes of national sports teams.

The original PE curriculum was drawn up by a group including the athlete Steve Ovett and John Fashanu, the Wimbledon footballer. Its revision is being carried out by 12 teachers and subject specialists.

The architects of the new curriculum see their role as ensuring that pupils are introduced to many sports. They argue that any decline is restricted to extra-curricular sport, which has suffered from a shortage of non-specialist teachers to supervise games.

Authority officials believe that the wider range of sports available has created an exaggerated impression of decline. More pupils are opting for minority sports, such as basketball and volleyball, at the expense of the traditional cricket and football.

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Letters, page 19



Ovett helped to draw up PE curriculum

Pupils at risk on school trips

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE lives of children on school trips are put at risk because teachers fail to check instructors' qualifications and pupils stay in potentially dangerous hotels, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

The association criticised the Department for Education for refusing to legislate on activity holidays and said the Government had "as good as washed its hands" of the matter.

Examining experiences from more than 100 secondary schools, the association's *Holiday Which?* magazine found that a hotel in Florence used by schools was a potential fire hazard; almost three-quarters of schools that relied on outside instructors for activity holidays failed to check their qualifications; and a fifth of school party leaders had no prior knowledge of their holiday destination.

Patricia Yates, the magazine's editor, said: "While most school trips are trouble-free, the mounting death toll over the past ten years gives cause for concern."

Holiday Which? suggests parents should attend all meetings concerning the trip, ask at the earliest planning stages if leaders have visited the destination and demand that all third-party qualifications are checked.

Leading article, page 19

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Opportunity missed

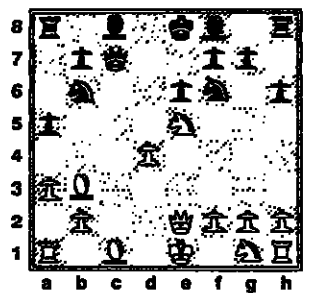
In round seven of the super-tournament in Linares, Spain, Garry Kasparov, the PCA World Champion, salvaged a draw from a losing position against his arch rival Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion. Both players had missed a decisive shot on the thirteenth move that would have wrecked Kasparov's position.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Linares, March 1994

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c5
2 d4 c5
3 Nc2 dxc4
4 Nxe4 Nd7
5 Bc4 Ng8
6 Nf5 e6
7 Qc2 Nb6
8 Bb3 h6
9 Nf3 a5
10 c3 c5
11 a3 Qc7
12 Ne5 Qxd4
13 cxd4

Diagram for position after White's 13th move



Winning move, page 48

Surprisingly, both Kasparov and Karpov had missed that in the diagram position Black could have won a vital pawn with the extraordinary combination 13... Bxa3, meeting 14 Bxa3 with 14... Qxc3, or 14 Bxa3 with 14... Qxc3, forking White's king and rook. This would almost certainly have guaranteed Karpov victory in the game.

Junior record

A record has been established in *The Times* British Schools Chess Championship. St Teresa's RC Primary School, Colchester, has, by beating Bancrofts School, Woodford Green, become the only primary school to win a zone in the championship since the competition began in 1957.

Winning move, page 48

Airports land in trouble for offering poor service

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SPARSE facilities, claustrophobic check-in halls and dated departure lounges confront travellers at many of Britain's airports, according to the Consumers' Association.

Terminal 1 at Heathrow — Britain's busiest airport — is "simply too busy to be pleasant" while the check-in area at Terminal 2 was "bunker-like with a very low roof", the association's *Holiday Which?* magazine says.

It voted Heathrow Terminal 4, Gatwick North, Manchester 2, Glasgow, Birmingham 1 and Stansted as the best for facilities, but found large variations in standards and prices. Passengers have to pay £98 to leave a

car at Heathrow for 14 days, but only £16 at Belfast International Airport.

At seven airports, you cannot buy travellers' cheques and insurance, or change money once you have passed through passport control.

Commission rates for exchanging money varied from £3 at East Midlands, Cardiff and Bristol airports to £150 at Belfast International airport.

However, the association praised Heathrow Terminal 4's check-in hall for its "spacious and modern" design, while Gatwick North offered a large mall of shops with a variety of restaurants. Manchester 2 was commended for its "spacious" marble check-in hall, and for a "pleasant" cafeteria and "hundreds of seats".

Luton called itself London Luton

Airport but its facilities fell "far behind those offered by BAA's London airport". The magazine acknowledged, however, that refurbishment was under way.

A spokeswoman for Luton said new catering facilities had opened this week after a £1 million investment and the shopping, duty free store and departure lounge area was being "completely upgraded".

Cardiff was criticised for its "simple facilities and ageing decor". At Newcastle airport building work made the check-in desk "cramped, noisy and dusty".

BAA said it was pleased that four of its airports — Heathrow, Gatwick, Glasgow and Stansted — were in the top six. A spokeswoman said: "We

are spending over £100 million upgrading facilities in Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2."

Patricia Yates, editor of *Holiday Which?*, said: "Your choice of airport can influence the cost of your package holiday — but there are many more variations than simply the cost."

"The size of smaller airports makes them easier to use, they are often more convenient and tend to have cheaper long-term parking rates."

"However, they have been unable to match the massive investments poured into those privately owned by companies such as BAA. The larger airports with better facilities and often greater comfort are used by most holidaymakers."

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Tabloids shift circulation battleground to television

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE tabloid newspaper circulation war entered a new phase yesterday when *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* announced that they are to sponsor ITV programmes in multi-million-pound sales drives.

The move follows the success of the *Daily Star's* £1.5 million sponsorship last year of the game show *Pot of Gold* presented by Des O'Connor, which boosted the paper's circulation by an estimated 80,000 or more than 10 per cent.

David Prosser, deputy chairman of ITV's sponsorship committee, said: "Television sponsorship is growing faster than other media. It is a new and exciting means of communication because the sponsor is linked in viewers' minds to the programme. The key is in finding the right programme to match the message you want to put out."

The *Daily Mirror* will sponsor the light-entertainment show *You Bet*, hosted by Matthew Kelly, in which people perform in front of celebrity judges. *The Sun* will sponsor the game show *Play Your Cards Right*, presented by Bruce Forsyth.

The deals, which together are worth £6 million, give each paper exclusive rights to promote their programme and to launch competitions enabling readers to play the games at home. Industry experts believe that the interactive element will attract more

sponsorship deals. One television source said every ITV game show was under scrutiny from the big newspaper groups.

An ITV spokesman said: "For newspapers, it is a huge advance on bingo or other promotions. The interactive element brings in new readers, while the existing readers get hooked into a television programme with which they can play a game."

The deals are the latest twist in the papers' long-running battle for readers, which reached fever pitch last July when *The Sun* cut its price 5p to 20p and increased its lead over its closest rival. *The Sun* sold four million copies a day in January, the *Daily Mirror* 2.5 million and the *Daily Star* 749,000. *The Sun* is owned by News International, which also owns *The Times*.

The move increases the amount earned by ITV from programme sponsorship — estimated to be worth £25 million this year.

It recently drew up a list of 50 programmes, including *Blind Date*, *Cracker*, *Heartbeat* and *The South Bank Show*, which it hopes will attract sponsors.

Although programme sponsorship was slow to take off, it has fast gained credibility. Eighteen networked ITV programmes were sponsored last year, including *Poirot*, by the electronics company AEG, and *Surprise Surprise*, by Telecom.



Sylvia Panter at the court martial yesterday. She denies charges of desertion and theft

Navy pair 'took £11,000 from HMS Invincible'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A ROYAL Navy petty officer and a Wren serving in HMS *Invincible* vanished with £11,000 from the ship's safe when the aircraft carrier was anchored off Corfu, a court martial was told yesterday.

Petty Officer Ian Luff, 30, and Wren Sylvia Panter, 27, arrived in Barcelona to give themselves up to the British Consul nine days later. They handed back a sum of money before being returned to Britain and arrested but £2,141, allegedly spent on travel, clothes and accommodation, was missing.

PO Luff and Wren Panter admit removing the money from the safe and being absent without leave but deny theft and desertion. It was Wren Panter's job to look after the safe. Lt Cdr David Steele, for the prosecution, told the hearing at Portsmouth that Wren Panter's shore leave was withdrawn when she failed to arrive on time for duty. She was seen to go onshore with PO Luff last September.

Earlier she had taken money in sterling and Greek drachma from the safe and given it to PO Luff, of Sandown on the Isle of Wight.



Ian Luff with his wife at the hearing in Portsmouth

Checks on the safe showed all the money had gone.

Lt Cdr Steele said that in interviews Wren Panter had explained that she simply wanted to get away from the ship and return home to sort out her marriage.

PO Luff allegedly admitted carrying the money off the ship, however considering it to be just a loan. The hearing was told that Wren Panter, from Camberley, Surrey, had been spoken to twice about her relationship with PO Luff before they disappeared from the ship.

Lt Steve Parton, her superior, said that in a second interview Wren Panter had

said her relationship was being conducted only onshore, not on the ship.

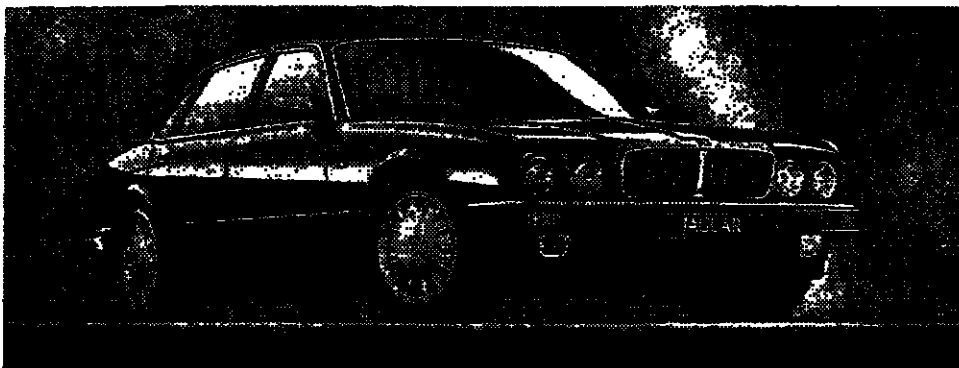
She was not sure whether she wanted to remain with her husband or to be with PO Luff, Lt Parton said.

He warned her that should the relationship continue, she might receive a third formal warning and be removed from the ship. "It was her belief it was none of the Navy's business," Lt Parton said.

He described her as "temperamental and emotional". However, he had no reason at any other time — except when the money disappeared — to doubt her professional integrity. The hearing continues.

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What are dreams for, if not to come true?

Hill 'made a second murder confession'

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Hill made a second confession to the murder of a former British soldier in Belfast in 1974 when he identified a photograph of the victim, a court was told yesterday.

Ronald Appleton QC told the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal that Hill was under no pressure when he confessed to the murder of Brian Shaw for a second time.

Hill, one of the Guildford Four, is appealing against conviction for the murder of

Mr Shaw in Belfast in July 1974. He confessed to taking part in the murder to RUC detectives in Surrey while being questioned about the Guildford pub bombing. Lord Gifford QC, his counsel, contends the confession is unsafe because Hill had been reduced to a wreck by Surrey detectives.

Mr Appleton, for the Crown, said Hill had identified a photograph of the murdered man six weeks after his interview at Guildford, at a time when he did not allege to have been under pressure.

Mr Appleton, outlining the Crown's final submission, questioned Hill's claim that his first confession was unsafe. "None of the Surrey CID officers against whom wrongdoing has been alleged had any contact with Paul Hill prior to the arrival in his cell in Guildford of the RUC officers," Mr Appleton said. He said claims that a Surrey detective pointed an unloaded gun into Hill's cell bore no relation to the RUC interview. "The Crown says the evidence of misbehaviour... must relate to a period after Paul Hill had made his confession."

Mr Appleton, prosecution counsel at Hill's trial in 1975, said the honesty of the RUC detectives had been accepted by the trial judge. No fresh evidence had questioned that. The hearing continues.

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Cash crisis may force Welsh police to slash services

By IAN MURRAY

MISMANAGEMENT. Irregular expenses payments and inaccurate overtime claims cost the South Wales police nearly £2 million last year, according to a study by the district auditor.

The force, which has a £2.38 million deficit and is facing a £14 million shortfall in next year's budget, fears it will be forced to cut services so much that it could lose its certificate of efficiency.

The financial crisis was brought about because the police authority, made up of councillors from the three counties of the force, has not been given a larger share of the local authorities' budgets.

"They just don't seem to be able to get their priorities right," PC John Prosser, secretary of the local branch of the Police Federation, said. "They make us run on a shoe-string and lack the political will to fight for us."

The 3,000 officers and 1,000 civilians in the force have passed a motion of no confidence in the authority, which they say is responsible for underfunding and for failing to ensure proper management practices. The federation believes that authority members have not fought for a larger share of the budget because they take police loyalty for granted.

An internal audit is being rushed through to help the authority to find ways to save money but officers are already resigned to working inside a budget that is 10 per cent lower than Robert Lawrence, the chief constable, believes is needed.

The three Glamorgan county councils that fund the force received a 4.4 per cent increase from the Welsh Office this year. They have passed on only 1.75 per cent to police.

"It is up to the counties to set their priorities," a Welsh Office spokesman said. "It is nothing to do with us once we have given them the money."

Roy Jones, the county councillor who chairs the police authority, blames the Government for capping county budgets. Alan Parry-Jones,

branch chairman of the Police Federation, said: "The force is being used as the football. The Home Office says it has given enough money for policing South Wales; the police authority says it will be rate-capped if it gives us any more."

The audit appears to have convinced Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that inefficiency rather than underfunding is the problem. He visited Cardiff last Friday but ignored a request from Alan Michael, the shadow Home Office spokesman and MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, to discuss the crisis.

Mr Michael said: "I was



Prosser: "Force made to run on shoe-string"

shocked by his insensitivity in coming down here yet finding no time to hear about these problems. In the best-run organisations you can always find some things that are wrong but the amount the auditor is talking about comes nowhere near the amount the police need."

The auditor's report found overpaying of £673,000 on excess staff. About £500,000 was overpaid on pensions and £400,000 on unbudgeted overtime payments. Failing to monitor advance expenses cost £120,000. Better car maintenance practices would have saved at least £82,500.

The chief constable is drawing up a rescue plan, including suspending recruitment, stopping overtime and closing some stations. One station

under threat is on the notorious Ely estate in West Cardiff. The plan is to go before a public meeting on March 21.

Mr Lawrence said: "Many of these options are unacceptable to me and, I am sure, unacceptable to the public, but they have to be taken." He said that the savings would inevitably mean a move away from traditional community policing.

The auditor's finding that there were errors on 68 per cent of overtime claims is contested by police. The federation said officers were owed thousands of pounds which they have never claimed because the force had no money.

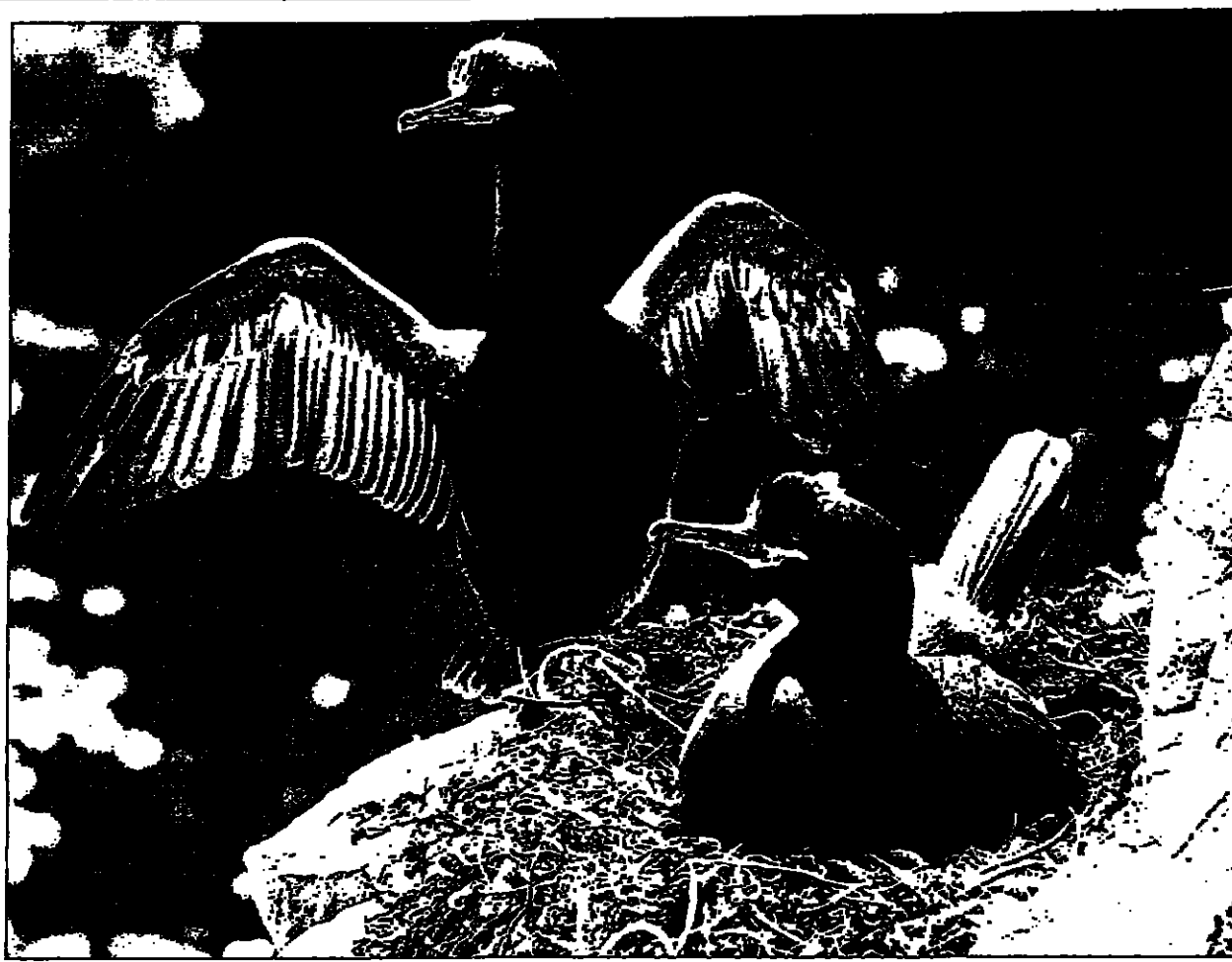
"If officers are guilty of dishonesty then there should be a criminal investigation," PC Prosser said. "Nobody is suggesting that because all our claims were justified and they know it."

They want us to run like a business. If we were, they would have the receivers in by now selling off our assets. That wouldn't raise much because the only things we have are run-down police stations and some high-mileage defective vehicles. The men and women of the force are the only real assets.

"It is only because they have goodwill that loyal, dedicated officers go on working without claiming and now they are being blamed for it. If we keep our certificate of efficiency it will be down to our goodwill."

PC Geoff Andrews, federation secretary in Derbyshire, the only force to have lost its certificate so far, said that if South Wales failed to pass the prospects were bleak. He said: "It is demoralising. A stigma attaches itself to you with the public making sarcastic remarks if you turn up later than they want. There is always the fear that criminals will choose to operate in your area because you are supposed to be inefficient."

"And all the time we are doing our best. We are caught between the Government and the local police authority. They are inefficient and we take the blame."



Cormorants are moving inland where they are said to plunder fish stock worth thousands of pounds

Anglers angered by protected 'poachers'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

CORMORANTS are causing a stir as they desert their traditional coastal haunts and move inland in growing numbers in search of freshwater prey.

Anglers see the voracious hooked-beak birds as rivals for their catch in rivers and lakes, and owners of sporting estates and fish farms accuse them of destroying stock worth thousands of pounds.

English Nature, the Government's chief wildlife adviser, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

dismiss such claims as wildly exaggerated and vigorously defend the cormorant's protected status.

The cormorant population is put at nearly 19,000 and growing at about 3 per cent a year. Since 1981 it has been illegal to shoot the birds except under licence from the Ministry of Agriculture, which requires proof, often difficult to provide, of damage to fish stocks.

From 1987 to 1992 the ministry granted up to four licences a year and the number of cormorants shot never exceeded 20 a year. Last year, under pressure from fishery managers, the ministry issued 24 licences allowing up

to 236 cormorants to be killed. This provoked the wrath of the RSPB, which last week launched a test case in the High Court challenging the legality of licences to shoot small numbers of cormorants and goosanders, a species of duck, on the river Wye in Hereford and Worcester, where anglers blame the birds for falling salmon catches.

Des Taylor, chief columnist of the *Angling Times* wrote recently: "Farmers are allowed to kill vermin, like magpies and crows, which damage their crops. Why can't fishery owners be allowed to kill the cormorant that is killing their crop?"

GPs wasting money on useless drugs

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

Family doctors are over-prescribing to the tune of £425 million, with patients put at risk. The Audit Commission has found

FAMILY doctors are prescribing useless drugs which may cause harm to patients and are depriving the health service of resources.

An investigation by the Audit Commission says that GPs are handing out expensive ulcer-healing drugs for indigestion and antibiotics for colds and flu which do not

work for those conditions. The inappropriate use of antibiotics may build up resistance and "permit serious infections to develop", the commission's report, published yesterday, says.

Some doctors prescribe four times as many cough medicines and appetite suppressants as others even though they are identified in the British National Formulary, the GPs' drugs guide, as "of limited clinical value". Sleeping pills, tranquilisers, cholesterol-lowering drugs and powerful painkillers are also over-prescribed and GPs make insufficient use of cheaper alternatives to expensive brand name drugs.

GPs write out prescriptions in seven out of ten consulta-

tions, sometimes as a way of ending them. If all practices matched the prescribing habits of the best, savings of £425 million on the NHS's £3.6 billion drugs bill could be made, the report says.

However, in some cases GPs are prescribing too little. Asthma is widely under-treated by GPs who fail to identify sufferers or give them the correct drugs to control the condition. If all GPs increased their prescriptions of inhaled steroids to prevent asthma to the level of the best it would cost an extra £75 million but there would be fewer emergency hospital admissions.

British GPs hand out an average 7.6 prescriptions per patient each year compared with 12 in Germany, 20 in

Italy and 38 in France. Drugs are less expensive here than in America, Germany and The Netherlands but about 30 per cent dearer than in France. The report says that the Government's aims of promoting a strong pharmaceutical industry and securing good value for the NHS "do not always sit easily together".

Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, said that GPs prescribed well but should not become complacent. "Advances in medicine mean that more and more patients can be given better and better treatment. We will only be able to afford all the developments we want if we make every penny count."

The British Medical Association said increasing demand from patients and pressure on GPs would make some of the recommendations impossible to implement. Labour urged Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, "to tackle waste in the drugs budget".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman jailed for stabbings

A police sergeant who stabbed three youths with a kitchen knife, believing they had tried to burgle his house, was jailed for two years by Maidstone Crown Court.

Richard Harris, 56, of Tunbridge Wells, was cleared of three counts of wounding with intent on New Year's Day last year but was found guilty by a jury of unlawful wounding without intent.

Sarah O'Neill, for the prosecution, said that although Andrew Purvis, Ian Lloyd and Adrian Funnell entered Harris's driveway and kicked his garage door, it was only high spirits and they caused no damage. The three received seven stab wounds between them, none serious.

Youths held

Gary Balaam, 19, of Lewisham, south London, and Mark Griffiths, 18, of Cardiff, were remanded in custody for a week by Cardiff magistrates charged with abduction and robbery after a woman motorist was allegedly seized at knifepoint in Cardiff, tied up and abandoned in a country lane in South Glamorgan.

Driver fined

Stuart Davidson, 20, of Carlisle, Cumbria, whose car knocked the athlete Steve Ovett off his bicycle, breaking a toe and severing knee tendons, was fined £100 for careless driving and £40 for having defective tyres.

Patient enquiry

North West London Mental Health Trust is holding an enquiry into the care and treatment of Michael Buchanan, 29, who was convicted of manslaughter after being discharged from Sharnley Hospital, Hertfordshire.

Two blinded

Two shop workers in Southampton were temporarily blinded after a thief brandishing a water pistol squirted burning liquid in their eyes and fled with thousands of pounds in takings.

Bull in carwash

A rampaging bull charged through a carwash after escaping from an abattoir at Keighley, West Yorkshire. It was eventually cornered in a field and shot by a police marksman.

Fitness plan

GPs in Presteigne, Powys, are writing out prescriptions which entitle patients to ten sessions at the local leisure centre.

Tough talkers

A couple who fled their Exeter bedsit ran up a telephone bill of £72,000 in nine days.

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Race abuse lecturer may get £11,000

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A **BLACK** lecturer could be awarded £11,000 in a test case after an industrial tribunal found he was the victim of institutional discrimination and victimisation by his college which ignored his complaints of racist abuse from students.

Stanley Jenkins's treatment at Thanet Technical College in Broadstairs, Kent, had "been endorsed at the highest levels of the college", the tribunal in Ashford ruled.

Students called him a "nigger", "sambo" and "kaffir". His complaints were not believed and key members of the college management believed he had become paranoid about racism.

On one occasion two students shouted "siege hell" at him and the blackboard had a swastika on it. However, after Mr Jenkins began proceedings under the Race Relations Act, the college started disciplinary action.

The tribunal found that the college's defence to his allegations were themselves racially prejudiced. Mr Jenkins, 48, who has taught at the college since 1979, was born in Zimbabwe but has been a UK resident since 1970.

He said that after making his first complaint to the tribunal, the college cut his hours and threatened him with disciplinary action if he refused teacher training. The college said the tribunal's judgment referred to complaints made in a "different era". Staff and students were undergoing racial awareness training.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman jailed for stabbings

A police officer has been jailed for two years for the stabbings of two young men. The officer, who was charged with the deaths of two young men, was found guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to two years in prison. The officer was found guilty of manslaughter after a trial at the Old Bailey. The judge said the officer had acted recklessly and without regard for the lives of others. The officer was found guilty of manslaughter after a trial at the Old Bailey. The judge said the officer had acted recklessly and without regard for the lives of others.

Youths held

Four young men have been held on suspicion of involvement in a series of burglaries in the south of England. The police said the four young men were arrested on suspicion of involvement in a series of burglaries in the south of England. The police said the four young men were arrested on suspicion of involvement in a series of burglaries in the south of England.

Driver fined

A driver has been fined for driving a car with a faulty brake. The driver was fined for driving a car with a faulty brake. The driver was fined for driving a car with a faulty brake. The driver was fined for driving a car with a faulty brake.

Patient enquiry

A patient has been asked to pay for a private medical consultation. The patient was asked to pay for a private medical consultation. The patient was asked to pay for a private medical consultation. The patient was asked to pay for a private medical consultation.

Two blinded

Two people have been blinded by a fire in a shop. The fire in a shop resulted in two people being blinded. The fire in a shop resulted in two people being blinded. The fire in a shop resulted in two people being blinded.

Bull in car

A bull has been found in a car. The bull was found in a car. The bull was found in a car. The bull was found in a car.

Fitness plan

A fitness plan has been developed for a group of people. The fitness plan was developed for a group of people. The fitness plan was developed for a group of people. The fitness plan was developed for a group of people.

Tough talks

A group of people have had tough talks. The group of people had tough talks. The group of people had tough talks. The group of people had tough talks.

Tory rivals put Euro credentials to test

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

AS THEY swagger down the political catwalk, courting the Tory right with European collections tailor-made for a summer leadership contest, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are encountering a distinctly sceptical audience.

The Cabinet's two supermodels, the men who would almost certainly wrestle for the crown if John Major falls under a ballot box in the June Euro-elections, are traditionally men of the left. They both know that victory would go to whoever creates the biggest stir among the 100-plus MPs and ministers on the opposing wing of the party.

Mr Clarke, the Chancellor, is already installed as the most fashionable bet in a race that Mr Major is determined should never be run. Now Mr

Heseltine, his political rehabilitation virtually complete, is trying out a new suit of clothes as he seeks to impress the Euro-sceptics, the Tory constituency that for all the long-term attractions of young Michael Portillo, has an agenda but no leader.

Reactions yesterday were distinctly mixed. They are both Euro-manics, snapped one Maastricht rebel. "They have ruined our economy and made mistakes after mistake. They talk about the problems of the single market, but why the hell did they not do something about it when they had the chance during the Maastricht negotiations?"

Another young right-winger said: "There is nothing to choose between them. I would be unhappy with either of them as leader."

Mr Heseltine seems to be making the most headway among those on the right who

The Cabinet supermodels, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, are finding a sceptical audience hard to please

are beginning to lose faith in Mr Major. "Heseltine," said one. "Simply a matter of instinct. He's a fair-minded man. They will both have to compromise — and Europe is the critical issue — but I trust Heseltine to compromise and not Clarke."

Edward Leigh, a junior minister in Mr Heseltine's trade department until sacked by Mr Major last year, is one of the few right-wingers prepared openly to champion the claims of Mr Heseltine. "I worked closely with Michael and I believe his views on Europe are motivated by a deep sense of patriotism. As he once said to me, he would much rather be running the

British empire than Britain in Europe. But the fact is he wants British companies to win in Europe."

Certainly, the President of the Board of Trade has been striking a more sceptical note of late, most powerfully in his Stockton Lecture last week when he distanced himself from his past support for the ERM and subjected Brussels to the kind of verbal mauling once the stock-in-trade of Baroness Thatcher: "The single market is over-regulated, over-protected, over-centralised. We now have Euro-sclerosis."

But Mr Clarke has also been polishing his Euro-sceptic credentials. In Bonn last

July he said: "Labour markets are the crux of Europe's economic woes... The first step must be for EC governments to look at the whole range of extra costs we force on business by excessive regulation."

Unlike Mr Heseltine, he seems reluctant to sanction a final breach with the ERM. At a press conference in November Mr Clarke harked after his old flame. "A mythology has sprung up that our recession was caused by the ERM and that when we left the ERM, happy dawn was here again. But the present recovery, it is now plain, had started before we left. The quest for a single currency was a 'worth-while project'."

As long ago as 1989 in his book *The Challenge of Europe. Can Britain Win?* Mr Heseltine was arguing that the country had to be a member of the "club" sharing sovereignty in the pursuit of

self interest. On Sunday on BBC radio, he was singing the same patriotic song. "I am a European for the simplest of reasons because I think Britain gains more than it loses."

Mr Clarke strikes a more romantic vein, allying himself with Hugh Dykes, the federalist Tory MP who chairs the British arm of the European Movement. A year ago Mr Clarke told *Parliament's House Magazine*: "I became very pro-European when I attended the Conservative Party conference in Llandudno in 1961, when Harold Macmillan announced our intention to join the Common Market and I wandered around wearing a badge with 'Yes' painted on it in blue. I had attended the conference I think with Hugh Dykes, with whom I have always shared very similar views on Europe, views also shared by John Smith, Giles Radice and Roy Jenkins."

A star is reborn for right-wing anti-Major camp

Michael Heseltine is "tanned, rested and ready" as the Richard Nixon T-shirts say in Washington. The president's denials of political ambition have become an art form: portentous, sincere, but incomplete. Mr Heseltine is loyal, but he is also eager to achieve more in politics.

The latest "Hezzie" wave says more about the people stirring the speculation than about the chances of a contest. The anti-Major forces had almost resigned themselves to Mr Major leading the party into the next election. But they do not respect him and suspect his comments on Europe.

But there is no plausible candidate on the right. Michael Portillo has still to show the political shrewdness and record to match his intellect, while Michael Howard has been forced, possibly temporarily, on the defensive by the police, the judges and their lordships over his law and order measures. On the centre-left, Kenneth Clarke is a political heavyweight, but he stumbled over his initially casual attitude to the row over tax increases. He is anyway suspect to the right because of his pro-European record.

So when Mr Heseltine gave a display of political skill at the Scott enquiry rarely seen nowadays, it was just what the anti-Major camp wanted — as shown by the feverish reaction of *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* at having discovered (or rather rediscovered) a star. Mr Heseltine is undeniably a Leader for those yearning for a Thatcher-like firm grip,

while boosting him offers the anti-Major camp a chance to unsettle the Prime Minister. Anyway, Mr Heseltine's every pronouncement is now being read as a bid for Downing Street: his vote on the homosexual age of consent, his criticisms of Euro-protectionism and his championing of private enterprise. Some of this excitement is ludicrous hype, but it is infectious at Westminster.

Mr Heseltine is not exactly an innocent in this jungle. Everything he says can be justified on its own terms, and is scrupulously loyal. He will campaign energetically in the local and Euro-elections, none more so. But he knows that all this activity — with his competitiveness white paper to come — shows that he has put the stumblings over pit closures of autumn 1992 and his heart attack last summer behind him. He is back in business and is available.

The outcome will depend not on what Mr Heseltine or his fair-weather fan club do or say, but on what happens in the Euro-elections. My hunch remains that Mr Major will survive through a combination of his own determination (never to be underestimated), the backing of most of the Cabinet, and a political stalemate over possible successors. Baroness Thatcher has, for instance, yet to intervene, as she will, on behalf of Mr Major in order to stop Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine. But there may come a point — for instance if the Liberal Democrats win more Euro-seats than the Tories — when the panic becomes unstoppable.



John Major defending his position on the Jimmy Young show on Radio 2

Mr Major would be ill-advised to rely on the constitutional doctrine he outlined yesterday on the Jimmy Young programme: "I was elected at the last election with the largest vote any party or any party leader has

ever had to remain Prime Minister at least until the next general election and beyond if I win it." Not only was the record vote in 1992 for the Tories, rather than for Mr Major personally, but the events of November 1990

showed that leading a winning party is no guarantee of security of tenure until the next election.

PETER RIDDELL
John Biffen, page 18

Britain to challenge working hours rules

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Hunt, the Employment Secretary, yesterday threw down a legal challenge to the European Union to stop plans to impose a maximum 48-hour working week.

Mr Hunt applied to the European Court to prevent new laws imposing the weekly working hours limit, forcing employers to offer four weeks' annual holiday and limiting night work to eight hours. Britain has opposed the plans as bureaucratic and unnecessary and the appeal to the European Court will block their implementation.

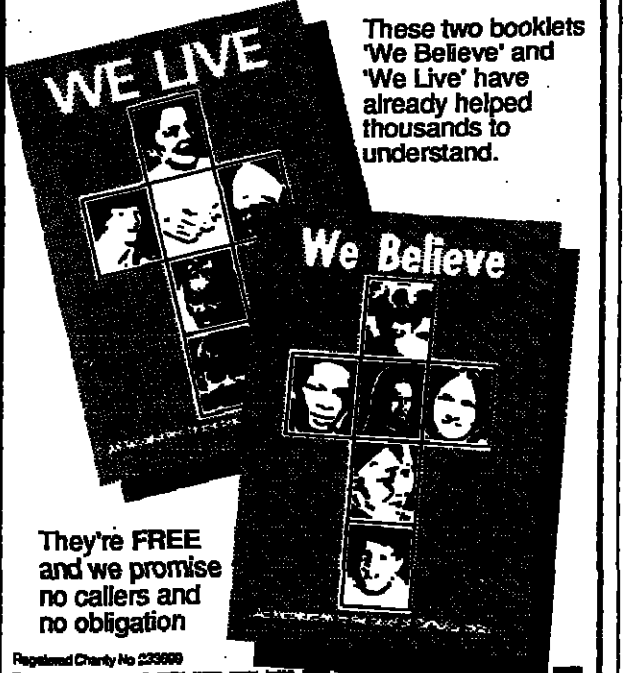
Mr Hunt said that Britain had a strong case in opposing the new working time directive, which he said was designed to "smuggle part of the social chapter through the back door". "The UK strongly opposes any attempt to tell people that they can no longer work the hours they want," Mr Hunt said.

The rules were proposed by the European Commission in 1990 as a health and safety measure, meaning that, unlike other directives dealing with employment issues, it is subject to a form of majority voting rather than unanimity. The latter would have allowed Britain to veto the measure. The directive, on which Britain eventually abstained, was formally adopted by the commission in November 1993 and European Union member states have three years to implement it.

Mr Hunt said its rules were "totally irrelevant to the proper control of health and safety at work". "The United Kingdom has one of the best health and safety records in Europe. We have never considered it necessary to place arbitrary limits on working hours."

CATHOLICS

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Immunity reform demanded

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR yesterday called for a change in the rules for the use of public interest immunity certificates to prevent ministers using them for "their own sordid political purposes".

Michael Meacher, Labour's spokesman on the citizen's charter, raised the issue in the Commons during questions to William Waldegrave, the Cabinet minister responsible for open government, and a witness to Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the Matrix Churchill affair. Mr Waldegrave has said he will resign if the enquiry concludes that he acted improperly.

Mr Meacher demanded: "What is the point of ministers pretending greater openness

in government when at the same time they sign public interest immunity certificates to prevent disclosure of what is embarrassing to them?"

To Labour cheers, Mr Meacher urged the minister to change the rules "so that ministers are directed to use these certificates, if at all, solely where they believe the national interest is genuinely at stake and not merely for their own sordid political convenience".

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, put up a robust defence yesterday of his actions in a second case. He was responding to comments in a newspaper that his signature on the public interest immunity certificate covering the case of

Paul Bennett, which was later overruled by the judge, had prevented Mr Bennett from getting hold of documents which proved he was brought to Britain illegally. Mr Bennett is charged with fraud.

Yesterday Mr Clarke disclosed that he had queried some of the six public interest immunity certificates he had been asked to sign while he was Home Secretary. "I queried the contents of two of them, and in one of them I declined to cover all the material that was put in front of me," he said. "I continue to believe that the Matrix Churchill case and the Bennett case were two of the most straightforward I faced, and that I was right to sign the certificates."



Hunt: legal fight against Brussels

In Parliament
Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; Prime Minister. Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Sunday Trading Bill, second reading.

Election fever fails to excite Eastleigh

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major has vetoed a quick by-election in Eastleigh although the local party and the new Tory candidate have pressed for a polling day in mid-April.

The Prime Minister looks increasingly likely to opt for May 5, the day of the local elections, to decide the fate of the late Stephen Milligan's Hampshire constituency. This would prevent any damage to the local election campaign from a potentially humiliating defeat. The local Tory chairman, Peter Madsen, said: "No one wants a drawn-out campaign, people get fed up with politicians very quickly at the moment."

All three parties are taking no chances on the date and have started their campaigns this week. Only the voters appeared uninterested. The



Reid: Tory candidate to succeed Milligan

The Tories, who held the seat with a majority of 17,000, have the hardest battle. Their new candidate, Stephen Reid, 42, a former data processing manager, spent all yesterday being grilled by Conservative Central Office on national and local issues in a series of mock interviews and was inundated with bedtime reading. He is a safe, taciturn man, rather than inspiring, and calls himself a "dyed-in-the-wool Tory".

He knows Back to Basics will be a big issue, but does not see his divorce as a problem, nor the fact that he is presently unemployed. He avoids questions on how much child maintenance he pays for his two older children. His second wife and two youngest children will be valiantly turning up for endless photocalls.

His agent, Lee Arnold, 28, is wisely going on honeymoon during April and handing over to his deputy.

The Liberal Democrats came to town on Friday night, and although they will not choose their candidate until today, they have already distributed leaflets. "We are going on the Government's financial record," Mark Payne, the agent, said.

Labour is still determined to treat the campaign more seriously than it did in Christchurch, even if it means splitting the vote and letting the Tories back in.

But along Eastleigh High Street few people are interested. "I wish the whole lot of them would stay in London and try to sort out the country's problems in a mature way instead of cavorting round here," said Lorna Peters, a teacher.

1992 general election result: Stephen Milligan (C, 38,998); David Chidgey (LD, 21,296); Jo Sugrue (Lab) 15,768. C maj 17,702.

Tanks support UN troops in takeover of Tuzla airport

By MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

AS NORDIC soldiers with tanks took control of Tuzla airport in northern Bosnia yesterday, 900 British soldiers waited for the Government to order them to fly to Bosnia as part of the United Nations reinforcements.

Ministers are expected to act soon; the UN role in Bosnia is evolving rapidly from a humanitarian aid operation into a full peacekeeping mission.

Britain's second infantry battalion group to be sent to Bosnia will be based on the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment from Tidworth in Wiltshire. The troops are equipped with 72 Saxon armoured vehicles.

At Tuzla about 120 Swedish and Danish troops arrived at the airport to prepare to reopen the runway for the first humanitarian aid flights into a region that is swamped with refugees.

In New York, Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN Ambassador, called a meeting of 20 troop-contributing coun-



tries to see which might volunteer extra soldiers to meet the request for 10,650 more troops from Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia.

Downing Street confirmed that Britain would be sending more troops. The Prime Minister said: "What we are seeking to do is to try to reinforce the UN's own efforts by promoting a coherent and urgent and positive response to their appeal for more troops." Turkey also said that it was ready to send 3,750 peacekeeping troops to Bosnia.

if Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, approves. Yesterday, as the Muslim-Croat ceasefire held, British soldiers began their first joint patrols with local militia along old confrontation lines in central Bosnia. Brigadier John Reith, whose role as commander of British forces in Bosnia has been expanded — he is now also responsible for a new southwest sector in charge of Spanish, Malaysian and Canadian troops — met local chiefs of staff at Gornji Vakuf to discuss ceasefire arrangements.

British troops were also helping to mastermind the handover of Croat and Muslim heavy weapons at allocated holding areas. The deadline was supposed to be noon yesterday. Fifteen "active weapons sites" have also been set up, where guns are allowed to be pointed outwards so that either Muslim or Croat forces can respond in the event of an attack by Bosnian Serbs.



Aleksandr Rutskoi, left, former Russian Vice-President, welcoming Richard Nixon to his Moscow home yesterday

Nixon has tea with disgraced Rutskoi

Moscow: Richard Nixon, the former American President, yesterday had tea with Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian Vice-President who was dismissed from office and jailed after last October's failed rebellion.

"Good luck to you and good luck to your boys," Mr Nixon told Mr Rutskoi as the pair posed for photographers inside Mr Rutskoi's house. Mr Nixon, who cleared his private visit with President Clinton, also plans to meet President Yeltsin and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of Russia's neo-Fascists. Mr Zhirinovskiy was deported to Moscow from Slovenia yesterday after the authorities, who offered no official explanation, denied him entry.

The extreme Russian nationalist party leader ran into trouble during his last visit to Slovenia in January when he was asked to leave as soon as possible after being accused of disturbing the peace after an incident at a hotel. (Reuters, AFP)

Ukrainians link disarmament to gas shipments

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN KIEV

THE first nuclear warheads to be pulled out of Ukraine arrived in Russia at the weekend to be dismantled, just days after Moscow began to cut back sharply on gas supplies to the republic over non-payment of debt.

The supply cuts, amounting to 4.6 billion cubic feet a day, began last Thursday. Yesterday, however, Gazprom, the Russian gas giant, said it was postponing any further cuts pending talks this Thursday to try to find ways of settling Ukraine's arrears, put at the equivalent of more than £600 million. "We are not taking any further measures until March 10, when there should be a delegation from Kiev here for negotiations," an official at Gazprom's central dispatch department said.

Ukraine depends on Russia for about 60 per cent of its gas needs, and President Kravchuk has hinted that Kiev's implementation of nuclear disarmament accords could depend on continued Russian gas shipments. Fully implemented, the gas cuts would threaten catastrophe to an already faltering economy.

In spite of all this, rather than anger at Russia or the economic mismanagement of the Ukrainian government, the mood of ordinary people in Kiev seems one of sullen, cynical disillusionment. Yesterday in the capital there were few signs of the gas cuts already made. In the run-up to the parliamentary elections on March 27, the government is trying to pass on all the effects to industry, sparing ordinary people.

Many people interviewed on the icy streets of Kiev said they would not vote in the elections, raising fears that less than half of the electorate may turn out. "Nothing any of our idiot politicians can do will make any difference. We'll just go on getting poorer and poorer," one woman said.

A poll of less than 50 per cent would be invalid, and many people believe Mr Kravchuk would then cancel the June presidential elections.

and simply go on ruling by decree "and perhaps finally begin to get on with serious reforms", according to one Ukrainian journalist.

The departure of the first trainload of 60 nuclear warheads on Saturday was announced by Mr Kravchuk in Washington, where he is on an official visit. A second trainload is scheduled to follow within days.

The warheads are said to be on their way to the Urals, where they are to be dismantled. The Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry said last Friday that, as part of the agreement on the dismantling of Ukraine's missiles, the first consignment of nuclear fuel from Russia had already left for the Chernobyl nuclear power station, 60 miles north of here.

The removal of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal is the outcome of a trilateral agreement signed during President Clinton's visit to Moscow in January in the wake of intense American diplomatic pressure. As a reward, President Kravchuk was invited to visit Washington, where he has been promised \$700 million (£470 million) in additional aid. Furthermore, the Clinton Administration is now emphasising its desire to support Ukraine's economy, which is no easy task.



Kravchuk rewarded with Washington visit

Moldavia votes to stay independent

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN overwhelming majority of Moldavians have voted to keep their independence and ignore nationalist demands for a merger with their ethnic kin in neighbouring Romania. Moldavian radio reported yesterday from Kishinev, the capital.

It said two-thirds of the 2.3 million electors voted in the plebiscite and more than 90 per cent of those who voted were in favour of maintaining the independence of the former Soviet republic. Sunday's vote was held a week after pro-independence parties swept to victory in parliamentary polls.

"This plebiscite is the first step towards a new constitution," President Saegur said at the weekend. "This question will decide the fate of our independent state."

Most of Moldavia, on the southwestern rim of the former Soviet Union, was a

Romanian province until 1940 when Stalin annexed it. Nationalists in the republic of 4.5 million people demand unification with Romania.

In Moldavia, the country's self-proclaimed Daestr republic, whose population is mostly ethnic Russian and Ukrainian, boycotted the plebiscite because it says it does not come under the authority of Kishinev. It also shunned last week's polls.

In Kazakhstan yesterday, voting also took place in the former Soviet republic's first contested parliamentary election. President Nazarbayev said: "The [new parliament] needs to pass laws which will deepen the economic reforms in the banking system, taxation and the attraction of foreign investment."

Yesterday's elections will replace a disbanded, part-time parliament with a full-time legislature of 177 seats.

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Nixon has tea with disgraced Rutskoi

Moscow Richard Nixon, the former American President, yesterday had tea with Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian Vice-President who was dismissed from office and jailed after last October's failed rebellion.

"Good luck to you and good luck to your boss," Mr Nixon told Mr Rutskoi as the pair posed for photographers inside Mr Rutskoi's home. Mr Nixon, who cleared his private visit with President Clinton, also plans to meet President Yeltsin and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of Russia's neo-fascist Mr Zhirinovskiy was deported to Moscow from Slovenia yesterday after the authorities, who offered no official explanation, denied his entry.

The extreme Russian nationalist party leader came into trouble during his last visit to Slovenia in January when he was asked to leave as soon as possible after being accused of disturbing the peace after an incident at a hotel (Reuter, AP).

ANC backs mass action in stubborn homeland

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE crumbling empire of Lucas Mangope, 70-year-old President of Bophuthatswana, the nominally independent homeland of the Tswana people, came under further attack yesterday as the African National Congress threw its full weight behind the mass protests which are bringing his administration to a halt.

His Cabinet yesterday decided the opportunity to register his Christian Democratic Party for April's elections in South Africa, increasing the clamour of the black liberation movements for the homeland's independence to be brought to an end and for free elections to be allowed within its many borders.

President Mangope was allowed an extension of the registration date because strikes and a breakdown of the telephone system prevented him from summoning his Cabinet in time for last week's deadline. When the Cabinet did meet, it decided it was opposed to registration. A meeting of parliament has been called for March 15.

Popo Molefe, the ANC's candidate for the premiership of the northwestern province which would include most of

Bophuthatswana, angrily declared yesterday: "The ANC in its negotiations with the Bop government has been really magnanimous. We have attempted to find a way in which they could gracefully bow out of this discredited system."

He said that they had been offered participation in the provincial government and that their army and civil service would become part of new national structures. The local chiefs would be absorbed into the provincial house of traditional leaders.

"We have guaranteed them that the experience they have accumulated in the course of their 16-year government would be used in creating a new government," Mr Molefe said. "They have rejected all that."

"Now, quite clearly, they leave us with no other option but to support the struggles which are already unfolding inside Bophuthatswana."

Mr Molefe said the ANC was calling on President de Klerk to take away Mr Mangope's powers. He also called on the Transitional Executive Council to move into Bophuthatswana to protect the voters.



An Israeli soldier escorting a Palestinian who was arrested in Bethlehem yesterday for throwing stones during a Hebron massacre protest

Israel offers PLO flexibility but refuses to disarm its settlers

Jerusalem: Israel intensified its efforts yesterday to lure the Palestine Liberation Organisation back to peace talks, holding out the promise of flexibility in state-aid talks but ruling out disarming Jewish settlers (Ben Lyndfield writes). Meanwhile, in attacks on Israel's "security zone" in

southern Lebanon, six Israeli-backed militiamen were killed — including Abdul-Nabi Bazi, a senior South Lebanon Army officer, by a roadside bomb claimed by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah — 15 were wounded and one kidnapped, Israel radio said. In one of the bomb blasts three South

Lebanon Army soldiers were killed and 14 wounded. In the West Bank town of Hebron, two Palestinians were shot dead by troops, the radio added. Yesterday in Gaza city the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, gave settlers until next Tuesday to leave or be

attacked in the wake of the Hebron massacre. "After this date we will not allow them to sleep or to travel safely on the roads," the group warned in a statement. Israeli officials said massacre victims or their relatives will receive up to £47,000 in compensation.

Egyptian militants ambush trains

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THREE overnight trains were attacked in Upper Egypt early yesterday, bringing to five the number ambushed since Islamic militants gave tourists and foreign investors a "final warning" to leave the country.

Although two of the trains were of the type which normally carry tourists between Cairo and the Nile resorts of Luxor and Aswan, the 11 passengers injured were all Egyptians, according to local officials. Tourist numbers have declined dramatically since the warning from the main armed group, Gamaa al-Islamiya, and because of increased tension after last month's Hebron massacre.

One of the trains, which were all attacked at about 2.30 am, was the "Businessman" express from Cairo to Luxor which had bullet holes in six of its eight carriages. The ambushes took place between Dairut and Sanabu, both Islamic strongholds which Western tourists have been strongly warned by their embassies to avoid. Passengers on all three trains received superficial injuries from flying glass but stayed on board.

Sleeper trains and slow-moving Nile cruise ships have become targets for Islamic gunmen and bombers trying to topple the government of President Mubarak by cutting off tourism revenues and foreign investment.

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Trade tops Major's agenda for visit of Indian leader

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Indian Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, will arrive in Britain on Sunday for a high-profile five-day visit that will focus on the close political and economic links between the two countries and on India's troubled relations with Pakistan and the dispute over Kashmir.

Mr Narasimha Rao, making a rare appearance in Britain by an Indian Prime Minister, will be given the full ceremonial of an official visit, with a call on the Queen, Downing Street talks with John Major, and meetings also with trade and defence officials.

Expanding the booming trade with India will be a main issue on the agenda: Britain has warmly welcomed the economic liberalisation put forward by Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister, and during his visit to India in January last year Mr Major urged British firms to take advantage of the new opportu-



Narasimha Rao: Sikh protests expected

nities. At Downing Street the two Prime Ministers will receive the first year's report of the newly created India-British Partnership Initiative.

Mr Major will also urge Mr Narasimha Rao to look for a peaceful solution in Kashmir — an issue that has aroused strong passions among the Asian community in Britain,

and where there have been widespread reports of Indian army human rights abuses. There will be tight security throughout the visit, as large demonstrations are expected from Kashmiri and Sikh groups. There will also be talks on regional security and British aid policies in India.

Mr Narasimha Rao will have talks with five Cabinet ministers: Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Heseltine, Michael Howard, Douglas Hurd and Lord MacKay of Clashfern. He will plant a tree at Runnymede and spend a day in Edinburgh, where he will lunch with the Lord Provost and dine in Edinburgh castle.

The last visit to Britain by an Indian Prime Minister was nine years ago, when Rajiv Gandhi came for talks with Mrs Thatcher. Mr Narasimha Rao will have talks and give a reception for the Indian community in Britain and will meet MPs with particular interest in India.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal by Tyson rejected

Washington: The US Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, who claimed that his conviction in 1992 for rape was a grave injustice.

Tyson, 27, had been found guilty of raping Desiree Washington, an 18-year-old beauty show contestant, in his Indianapolis hotel room in July 1991. He is expected to be released from prison in February 1995, after serving about three years of his six-year sentence. (Reuter)

Pope warned

Beirut: Raymond Eddé, a Christian leader, and Charles Helou, a former Lebanese President, have urged the Pope to postpone his planned visit to Lebanon in the wake of a bomb attack on Christians that left ten dead and 60 wounded. (Reuter)

Army blamed

Bujumbura: Residents blamed the Burundi army for the weekend massacre of about 200 people shot or stabbed to death in the Burundi capital of Bujumbura. Burundi radio quoted the army denying that troops were involved. (Reuter)

Vintner dies

Adelaide: Max Schubert, who "invented" Grange Hermitage, Australia's most sought after red wine, has died aged 79. He first produced it from Shiraz grapes for the Penfolds winery in the early 1950s. (AP)

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Hurd's spoonful of sense leaves Europe hungry for ideas



Hurd displayed usual skill at compromise

BILLED as a blockbuster, Douglas Hurd's speech here last night to the Belgian Institute of International Affairs was a let-down. Audiences of that kind want a British Foreign Secretary to paint his picture of the future. Instead, Mr Hurd handed out a dose of cod liver oil.

Mr Hurd takes the stern view that his Continental colleagues have been altogether too excitable and visionary of late and require a calming spoonful of common sense. Mr Hurd has been making "Europe must not run before it can walk" speeches for years and, with people across the Continent bored with politicians who refine schemes for a federal Europe when they should be fighting recession, he exploits the mood of the moment. Let's declare a truce

on federalist rhetoric. Mr Hurd proposed, and make what we have now work better.

His prescription is sensible but falls well short of being a Big Idea. Mr Hurd was displaying his customary skill at compromise; he is pushing his ideas at audiences in Bologna, Brussels and Dublin while pressing points designed to appeal to Euro-sceptics in the House of Commons. But to meet the challenges of the next two years Mr Hurd and his colleagues will need to wield weapons more powerful than advice on how the EU's machinery could run more smoothly.

Value-for-money audits, prob- ing parliamentary committees and anti-fraud laws would all be useful but also miss the point. The EU of the 1990s is the site of a

Tory splits over Europe are preventing the Foreign Secretary from addressing the realities of the Union, writes George Brock from Brussels



permanent battle for power and influence. Governments that wish to join the fight have to fashion ideas that go to the heart of the questions about the distribution of power in the EU's higgledy-piggledy system of councils, committees and corridors. Mr Hurd knows what these are, but stops short of broaching an agenda wide enough to tackle them.

Mr Hurd's "lets make the Union work" theme was being thrown back in his face as soon as

the words were out of his mouth last night. If Britain is so keen on oiling the wheels, said the fervent federalists from the Benelux countries, how come Mr Hurd wants to make majority voting even harder than it is now? Possible reform of the majority voting rules is at the heart of the agenda of the next two years.

The enthusiasm for federalism has been tempered but not quenched. Work towards launching a single currency of perhaps

as few as four or five states in 1999 proceeds. Does Mr Hurd think this good, bad or irrelevant? He rarely says.

John Major gave the impression that his triumph at Maastricht had stopped EU law from crossing the Channel. What Mr Major created was a powerful incentive for the European Commission to find ways of bypassing the Maastricht opt-out. Mr Major's logical next move would be to campaign to dismantle some clauses on social and labour law, but he may not have the nerve.

Mr Major is backing Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British Commissioner, to succeed Jacques Delors as president. Sir Leon wields vast quantities of "centralised" powers which he used to push and pull the 12

governments into the world trade deal clinched just before Christmas. This is the sort of "centralisation" that Mr Hurd rather likes, because it produces results of which he approves.

Mr Hurd's problem is that the divided state of the Conservative Party does not permit him to explain that EU membership is a continuous struggle for leverage conducted with shifting alliances which involve the risk that something will go wrong from time to time. He cannot explain that Britain cannot stop its partners forming such things as a single European currency. If Tory politics allowed Mr Hurd to report more accurately the realities of life in the EU, he would have a better chance of shaping an agenda which fits the times.

European ministers told Britain will defend right of veto

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is not prepared to see its veto power in the European Union weakened, Douglas Hurd told EU foreign ministers last night as a showdown began over the Union's voting system.

Britain and Spain, with last-minute support from Italy, were resisting moves last night by most EU states that would alter the way in which majority decisions are made on EU directives covering matters such as health and safety, single-market measures and the environment. Successful negotiations to bring Austria, Sweden and Finland into the EU have prompted a move to change the system to take account of the newcomers.

Britain and Spain argue, however, that the proposed change will bias the system against the states with large populations and that the number of votes necessary to block an EU law should not change. With Italy understood to be supporting Britain and Spain, there were suggestions last night that the pressure on Mr Hurd might be softening.

Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, said last night that if no agreement was reached by tomorrow, voting arrangements would be left unchanged.

British officials said that the argument would be very difficult and could spill over into today. The European Parliament must receive notice of the deals with the candidate countries by tomorrow to keep to the timetable for bringing in the new countries. Mr Hurd told his colleagues last night that the proposed change would mean that 40 per cent of the EU's population could be overruled, while present rules mean that only 30 per cent can be outvoted.

In a speech to the Belgian Institute of International Affairs last night, Mr Hurd said

that the EU should confine itself to making its present arrangements work before plunging into another round of arguments about new powers. "We have for too long concentrated on designing future stages of European co-operation. As soon as each stage is agreed, we start worrying about the next one," he said.

"But what our people want to see is evidence that the present arrangements work, that present administration is sound, that present mistakes and abuses are put right. I believe that it would be wise to have a truce on rhetoric."

The Foreign Secretary said that the EU was in danger of making law just to "feel good". Governments might quickly feel a "warm glow"

after passing a law to raise standards for people in work, but "the chill of lost jobs because of lost competitiveness is felt more slowly".

Mr Hurd's remarks were reinforced by the Prime Minister yesterday. Hours before the Foreign Secretary made his speech, Mr Major promised to oppose any attempts to weaken the present veto of individual governments on European legislation.

He promised to fight the European elections on a "distinctly British Conservative manifesto for the future of Europe". He said that, although he believed passionately in the national veto, Labour members of the European Parliament and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, wanted to get rid of it.

Mr Hurd and Mr Major are trying to bind the Conservatives behind a manifesto that questions the growth of the Brussels bureaucracy but keeps Britain at the centre of European affairs. But the sensitive nature of their operation was underlined immediately by the intervention of Sir Edward Heath who warned Mr Hurd not to damage the EU in the run-up to the elections.

Sir Edward asked: "What is the point of the Foreign Secretary being so critical of the Union of which we are members when he has to work with all the other 11 members of the Union?" He ought not to try to damage the Union "as he is apparently doing in his electioneering."

New members: Poland said yesterday that it would join Hungary in applying for EU membership. Andrzej Olechowski, Polish Foreign Minister, said he would make an announcement next week. (Reuters)

Major attacks, page 1
British challenge, page 11
John Biffen, page 13

Battle over formulas

THE battle yesterday over majority voting in the European Union is a vital issue wrapped in mathematical formulas (George Brock writes).

Each successive European treaty has specified decisions which have to be made unanimously and those to be made by "qualified majority". Each treaty has expanded the scope of majority voting. Many environmental laws can be made by majority voting, which also applies to public health. EU social law based on the pre-Maastricht treaties needs a unanimous vote except when redefined as "health and safety", which passes on a majority. Britain yesterday took the Commission to court over that tactic, which was used for the 48-hour working week law.



The Greek flag flying at half-mast over the Acropolis after Athens city council declared four days of mourning for Melina Mercouri, actress and Culture Minister, who died on Sunday aged 68 at the end of her long battle with lung cancer. Letters, page 19

Brussels lets regions share decision-making

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

AN ATTEMPT to bring the people of Europe and the bureaucratic power of Brussels closer together becomes reality tomorrow when the European Union's new Committee of the Regions (COR) meets for the first time.

The body, offspring of the Maastricht Treaty, will seek to involve regional and local politicians in EU decision-making. A Briton could be its first president; Charles Gray, president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and former head of Strathclyde Regional Council, is one of the four candidates and insiders believe he has a fair chance of winning. The other candidates are Luc van den Brande of Belgium, Pasquale Maragall of Spain, and Jacques Blanc of France.

Under the terms of the treaty, the 189-member committee must be consulted by

the European Commission and the Council of Ministers on an extensive range of policy areas that affect regional issues. While some herald tomorrow's meeting as the first step in filling the

so-called "democratic deficit" between Brussels and the people of Europe, doubts are already being raised about the body's effectiveness. First mooted by Germany as a new "senate of the regions" to

rival the European Parliament, the committee had its potential powers watered down to mere "advisory status" during the Maastricht negotiations and has no legislative veto. The committee is

also likely to be starved of funds, with a budget for 1994 of £9 million, half what was asked for.

Some observers, too, point to the fault lines that divide the committee. About half the members represent small local authorities; the rest are from such huge groups as the German Länder and Spanish regions. Talk of the committee having to split in two to accommodate this problem has already started.

The best hope for the committee is for it to speak with one, clear voice. "It would be extremely dangerous for the Commission or the Council of Ministers to reject the views of the COR," Bruce Millan, Europe's Regional Affairs Commissioner, said. "It will represent the views of some of the most important political powers in the Community."

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS			
Number of members per country and whether they represent regional or local authorities			
IRELAND 9 members all local		DENMARK 9 members 4 regional, 5 local	
BRITAIN 24 members 2 regional, 22 local		THE NETHERLANDS 12 members 6 regional, 6 local	
FRANCE 24 members 15 regional, 9 local		GERMANY 24 members 21 regional, 3 local	
PORTUGAL 12 members 3 regional, 9 local		BELGIUM 12 members all regional	
SPAIN 21 members 17 regional, 4 local	LUXEMBOURG 6 members all local	ITALY 24 members 17 regional, 7 local	GREECE 12 members all local

Germany forced to swallow second defeat over D-Day ceremony

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



British troops landing on Normandy beaches in June 1944 to launch the liberation of Europe

THERE seemed to be some uncertainty in Germany yesterday whether it had lost or won the Second World War. A leading Christian Democrat, Heinz Stercken, publicly pressed Germany's case for taking part in the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings by the Allied Forces.

The lobbying by Herr Stercken, head of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, came in spite of clear signals from Britain and France that a German presence in Normandy in June would be inappropriate. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who had hoped to attend with President Clinton, the Queen and President Mitterrand, was told that there was hostility from the French Veterans Association. Undeterred,

Helmut Kohl is disappointed he will not be at celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day. He will have to make do with a farewell parade for Allied troops when they pull out of Germany

the German leader declared the matter to be a *Chefsache* — a personal political priority — and diplomats duly raised the matter in Paris, London and Washington. By last week, however, the Chancellor seemed to be reconciled to staying at home and watching on television: the German Foreign Ministry instructed its diplomats to stay away from any formal D-Day commemoration.

Now Herr Stercken has reopened the sensitive matter. "I cannot be pleased that 50 years after the war those who are now reconciled and

who are allies in the European Union and the Atlantic Alliance cannot find a way to go beyond this," said Herr Stercken. "Events like this could be organised with more of an orientation to the future."

That almost certainly expresses Herr Kohl's personal views, but the timing was unfortunate. Herr Kohl, embarking on a critical election year, would have liked to have been photographed alongside the British, French and US heads of state. President Clinton, despite a close relationship with the Chancellor, has

made it plain that he cannot come to Bonn straight after the D-Day ceremony — that too would be "inappropriate", in Paris, *Le Monde* criticised President Mitterrand for his office's handling of the commemoration, but officials insisted there was no misunderstanding between Mitterrand and Herr Kohl.

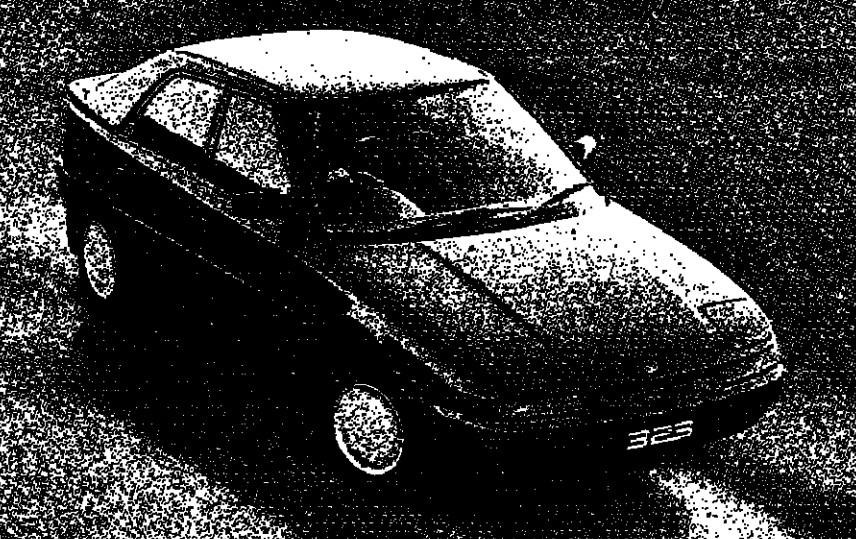
The Chancellor fought hard, and with success, to persuade President Reagan to visit a cemetery in Bitburg that contains the graves of both American servicemen and SS soldiers. Critics said the Chancellor was trying to equate the victims and perpetrators of war. President Clinton does not want to plunge into a similar controversy.

The Chancellor's election pitch is that he is the only politician capable of "normalising" Germany's role in the world; that Germany should be

seen not so much as the loser of the Second World War as one of the victors of the Cold War.

As the first German leader not to have seen combat, he claims to be uniquely qualified to bring united Germany back into the mainstream. To this end, the German government is organising a huge military parade in Berlin in the summer to say farewell to the departing Allied troops. This is intended to be a signal that Germany has regained full sovereignty, that it is no longer an occupied country. The unresolved question is whether the Russians and the Western Allies should march together in the same parade. Many east Germans still regard the Russians as an occupying rather than a liberating army.

Veterans quarrel, page 5



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How much crime can civilised people take?

We were burgled last Saturday. It had been an ordinary afternoon with the family. I had taken my four-year-old son, Tycho, to a children's concert at the Barbican Centre, and my wife had driven over from Stoke Newington, where we live, to meet us afterwards with our two-year-old daughter, Edith, because I was going out to dinner afterwards. My wife arrived home with the children at about 6.30pm. Very sensibly, the first thing she did was to ring our neighbours, who made her sit down with a cup of tea.

It was a very ordinary burglary. In broad daylight, they had smashed a stained glass panel in the front door and slithered through — like teenagers, perhaps? None of the neighbours saw anything, though one heard a noise and another noticed that a window at the back of the house had been opened — the escape route. They got away with a few items of

jewellery, two silver christening mugs and the hired video; they also smashed a piggy bank.

I happened to phone on the way to my dinner and jumped into a taxi, but on the way home I found myself thinking: it could have been so much worse. They took so few of the things we really care about: there was no vandalism; the neighbours were marvellous; even Tycho helped tidy up. Nobody was lying in wait for my wife and children. How lucky we are, I thought.

Two policemen and a policeman turned up later in the evening. They complimented us on our security and chatted to us about the "pond life" of the criminal classes, the "adverse media coverage" of the Stoke Newington force which had made it much harder to secure convictions, and the uselessness of local and central government. One young constable told us he had already been hospitalised and could expect this to happen on

average every seven years. Later a man arrived to board up the door. "Third one since 7 o'clock this evening," he told us cheerily.

Next day the fingerprint man turned up and went away with a good set of prints. We all went through the motions of pretending that a serious attempt would be made to catch the culprits. We knew, and the police knew that we knew, that we needed the police for the sake of the insurance. Living in an inner-city area, we pay exorbitant premiums which will no doubt be even more exorbitant after losing our no-claims bonus. That, too, is as normal in 1990s London as protection money in 1920s Chicago.

Though this was our first bur-



The British have let burglary and mugging become part of ordinary life, says Daniel Johnson, a recent victim

glary, it was not our first experience of crime. In the five years since we returned to London from living abroad, I have twice been assaulted and robbed. The first time I never saw my attacker properly, but was given a black eye and had my wallet stolen; the second time I was taking money from a cashpoint in Whitechapel Road when two men jumped me and threatened to stick a knife in my back. They grabbed

the cash, but I chased them and got the number of the getaway car. The detective who took my statement told me the car had been traced and the muggers, both drug addicts, would be arrested shortly. That was a year ago; I have heard nothing since.

That is only to be expected, you may say. Eastenders must expect burglars and muggers. But last year my parents, who live in upmarket Bayswater, were burgled while my mother and a friend were having supper in the basement kitchen; my children were asleep upstairs and the burglar had entered their room. What if the children had woken up and started crying? What if their grandmother had met the burglar on the stairs? We try not to think

about that, just as we try not to think about the prowler outside Tycho's nursery school who broke into our car.

All this, too, is unremarkable. But it is not just Londoners who have come to expect crime: my parents-in-law, who live in a Norfolk village, tell us that most of their neighbours have been burgled in the past couple of years, which makes any prolonged absence from home a source of acute anxiety.

Crime, in short, has become an ordinary part of English life. And this has happened in a single generation. When I was 11, I probably knew less about crime than my son does at four. Characters like "Burglar Bill" did not figure in children's books; I had never found our home strewn with broken glass; television, broadsheet newspapers and adult conversation did not confer on crime such overwhelming prominence.

I know that criticisms have been made of loose talk about the "crime

wave", not least by my colleague Simon Jenkins, who believes that the rise in crime figures is a statistical phenomenon related to the rise in prosperity. What seems to me undeniable, however, is that we have been encouraged to treat crime as an ordinary part of our lives, and that we therefore tend to accept it far more willingly than earlier generations. This attitude of resignation has probably allowed the Conservative government to escape paying the electoral penalty for its ineffectual policies on crime, and especially on hard drugs.

But the British are neither stoics nor cynics: there is a limit to their endurance. In America concern about crime rose for decades, but suddenly reached a critical level in 1992: what was seen as the Bush administration's insouciant attitude helped to lose the Republican the presidency. I suspect the British will be approaching that point sometime between now and the next general election.

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Ludovic Kennedy describes the atmosphere of evil that seems to pervade the scene of a multiple killing

Horror of a murder house

The chilling discovery of seven bodies in the house and garden of a respectable Gloucester street is but the latest example of a pattern which surfaces at infrequent intervals to shock us all.

The last well-known serial killer was, I suppose Dennis Nilsen, who decapitated and boiled the heads of young men at his Muswell Hill flat. But I go back even further, to the discovery of the murders done by the compulsive necrophilic strangler John Christie in Rillington Place, Notting Hill, west London in 1952. Christie had left his ground floor flat there a week or two previously. The new tenant noticed a strange smell and, pulling back the paper covering of the kitchen alcove, shone his torch on the trussed-up body of a dead prostitute. Soon afterwards Christie was arrested.

With the same thoroughness as the Gloucester police today, the Notting Hill police almost literally left no stone unturned in their search for more bodies. They found two more dead prostitutes in the kitchen alcove, the body of Christie's wife Ethel beneath the front room floorboards and those of two other women, Ruth Fuerst and Muriel Eady, buried in the back garden, the thighbone of one of them propping up the garden fence. During the diggings a Mr MacFadden who lived at No 10, told the press: "It's terrible. At work they make jokes, asking what the score is and if there's any more".

It was the discovery of the bodies in the garden that made the case so particularly shocking because four years earlier there had been two other murders in the same tiny house. Then the bodies of the wife and baby daughter of the top floor lodger, an illiterate van driver named Timothy Evans, had been found strangled in the Christie's wash-house. Evans, who had sold his furniture and run away to Wales, was duly arrested and brought to trial where he accused Christie, the chief prosecution witness, of the murders. No one believed him.

Christie was a successful wartime policeman and old enough to be Evans's father. Why should he want to murder Evans's wife and baby? The jury took only 40 minutes to find him guilty and he was hanged at Pentonville, protesting his innocence to the last. Yet the bodies in the garden had been lying there even before Evans moved to the house.

The coincidence of the only two men in this house murdering women in the same way without either knowing what the other was doing proved too much for most people, and after two inquiries and a prolonged campaign, Evans was granted what used to be called a posthumous free pardon. And Christie, having admitted to



The infamous 10 Rillington Place, where John Christie mixed Friar's Balsam with gas to lull his victims into unconsciousness

Although Christie's house was still occupied, there was a terrible musty smell in the wash-house

the murders of all the women, was hanged at Pentonville in his turn.

In due course, when researching for my book on the case *Ten Rillington Place* (still in print) I paid a visit to this house of peeling stucco. Going round it was an eerie experience. I started at the top in the Evans's little bed-sitting room where Christie had confronted Evans on his return from work with the body of his pretty young wife. She had died from an attempted abortion, he told Evans, which his wife had allowed him to attempt to get rid of an unwanted second baby. Evans accepted this. But there was no abortion: Christie had strangled her in order to possess her and not, it seems without a struggle.

And so to the dank kitchen alcove, now empty, where the tightly packed bodies of the prostitutes had been found; and then to the devil's kitchen itself and, in the wall, the gaspipe through which Christie had filtered gas mixed with Friar's Balsam to lull his victims into unconsciousness. Here had stood the deck chair in which Christie had sat with what he called his "strangling rope",

waiting until he could put them on the bed.

And lastly to the squalid plot at the back where Christie had buried the bodies of Ruth Fuerst and Muriel Eady. One day here Christie's dog Judy had dug up the skull of Ruth Fuerst and Christie had taken it along to a bombed church and dropped it through the window. When it was found the coroner ruled that it was probably the victim of a wartime air-raid.

The enormity of what Christie did was to my mind beyond comprehension, indeed so utterly grotesque it was almost shock-proof. But I was never glad to get away from any house in my life as that one. I have never forgotten it.

Time for the final curtain

After his collapse on stage, Frank Sinatra should consider retiring gracefully

THE MOST famous blue eyes in the world closed, briefly, on Sunday night as Frank Sinatra collapsed on stage in the middle of a rendition of "My Way", prompting near-hysteria in the American entertainment industry.

Just three hours later Old Blue Eyes was back, again, staging the latest comeback in a career that never went away.

The eyes are definitely old. He was 78 in December. They are still blue, if a little rheumy and baffled and Frank Sinatra, the hardy perennial of showbiz, becomes more famous but somehow less magnificent, with every passing year. Sinatra had reached the encore during a sell-out concert in Richmond, Virginia, on Sunday when he collapsed after calling for a chair. The audience of 3,600 fans shrieked. Several burst into tears as the singer was wheeled off in a wheelchair, waving weakly. Obituaries reached, prematurely, for their superlatives.

"Mr Sinatra became overheated and passed out for a few moments," explained his spokeswoman. He stayed just a few hours in a local hospital, before he demanded his private plane and headed back to California.

"He decided he wanted to leave and he left," said a hospital spokesman, helping to reinforce the Sinatra myth — the redoubtable "chairman of the board" who does what he wants.

A century from now, when sociologists come to write of the strange, late-20th century phenomenon of celebrity, they will take as their standard Francis Albert Sinatra, the waiter from Hoboken, New Jersey, who became a sort of God.

Cultural historian Daniel Boorstin has written that "The celebrity is a person who is well-known for his well-knownness... the creature of gossip, of public opinion, of magazines, newspapers, and the ephemeral images of movie and television screen. The passage of time, which creates and establishes the hero, destroys the celebrity..."

But Sinatra has moved beyond that definition into super-celebrity status. Not only has he survived the passage of time, he has sought to incorporate it into his appeal. He is, after all, *OLD* Blue Eyes, and he has been for years.

Last week Sinatra was awarded a Lifetime Grammy Award for his contributions to the music industry (100 albums so far), an event treated by the US media as a cause for national self-congratulation.

Bono from the band U2, a current pop celebrity whose shelf-life is almost visibly ticking away, offered an incoherent accolade: "Rock 'n' Roll people love Frank. He has what we want: swagger and attitude. He's big on attitude, serious on attitude, bad attitude. Frank's the chairman of bad attitude. He's the boss of bosses, the man, the big bang of pop."

Then heresy happened. Midway through Sinatra's lachrymose and wandering acceptance speech, some pup from CBS decided to cut to a commercial. America was outraged. "Sic transit gloria," observed Russell Baker in *The New York Times*. "I wept when I heard the news."

"Frank had been on plenty of time. They felt he would have talked for about an hour," said a Grammy organiser.

For this is the other side of existence as a showbiz icon. Old soldiers fade away. Old politicians write memoirs and open libraries but they too fade eventually. Old entertainers cannot. They are locked on to a treadmill, part embalming process, part deathwatch, as they face the final curtain.

Whatever his fans may wish and maintain, Sinatra's voice is not what it once was; at times, a teleprompter is needed to get him through his performances and even then words or whole verses disappear. He stumbles, mumbles and fluffs. Just before they cut him off at the Grammys, he recalled the old days and said he could do with a drink. His swagger is now closer to a totter.

But America will not let Sinatra leave the stage or even, like fellow veterans Bob Hope and George Burns, slip into a hilarious cameo. Nor will he let himself, even though he seems, at times, to be going through the motions, without joy or enthusiasm.

HIS latest album *Duets*, in which he collaborates with various other famed singers, is still selling well, and his concerts are always packed to capacity.

But there has been something strained, almost undignified in the twilight of this great career, a determination to hang on regardless, like the prima donna who returns for an encore when the applause is already fading.

The chairman of the board can always resign. Perhaps that would be the most appropriate way to show that Mr Sinatra is still determined to do it His Way.

BEN MACINTYRE



Icon: Old Blue Eyes

Don't forget Mother's Day. March 13th.



Ref. no. -TS-414

What has Hillary done to Bill?

David Fisher assesses the damage done by Whitewater

It is a familiar outlook of this White House, the shared assumption that they are all "good people" driven by the purest of motives. States children morally superior to their parents' generation. Their natural reaction when their righteousness is challenged is indignation and defiance, not candour and contrition. The bunker mentality starts with her.

No one below the President is able to tell Mrs Clinton that she should be as candid about Whitewater as she and her husband were — when it suited them politically — about their marital problems. Indeed the damage-control experts have been handicapped, because no one has dared to tell the full facts from the Clintons. Even Vice-President Gore, rushed onto television to defend the Clintons on Sunday, had to confess he had discussed Whitewater with them "only in general terms".

And where is David Duggan, the public relations supremo taken on last June to prevent just such disasters? He too apparently gives Mrs Clinton a wide berth. The one man on Mr Clinton's legislative agenda with which Mr Clinton has nothing to do is the First Lady's health care plan. In any case, he is said to be preparing to jump ship.

The bunker mentality starts with the First Lady

Mrs Clinton, with her shrewd political instincts, is usually her husband's best adviser. In this case, blinded by her own involvement, she may have been his worst. Were she not First Lady, she might be now be another "Casualty of Bill".

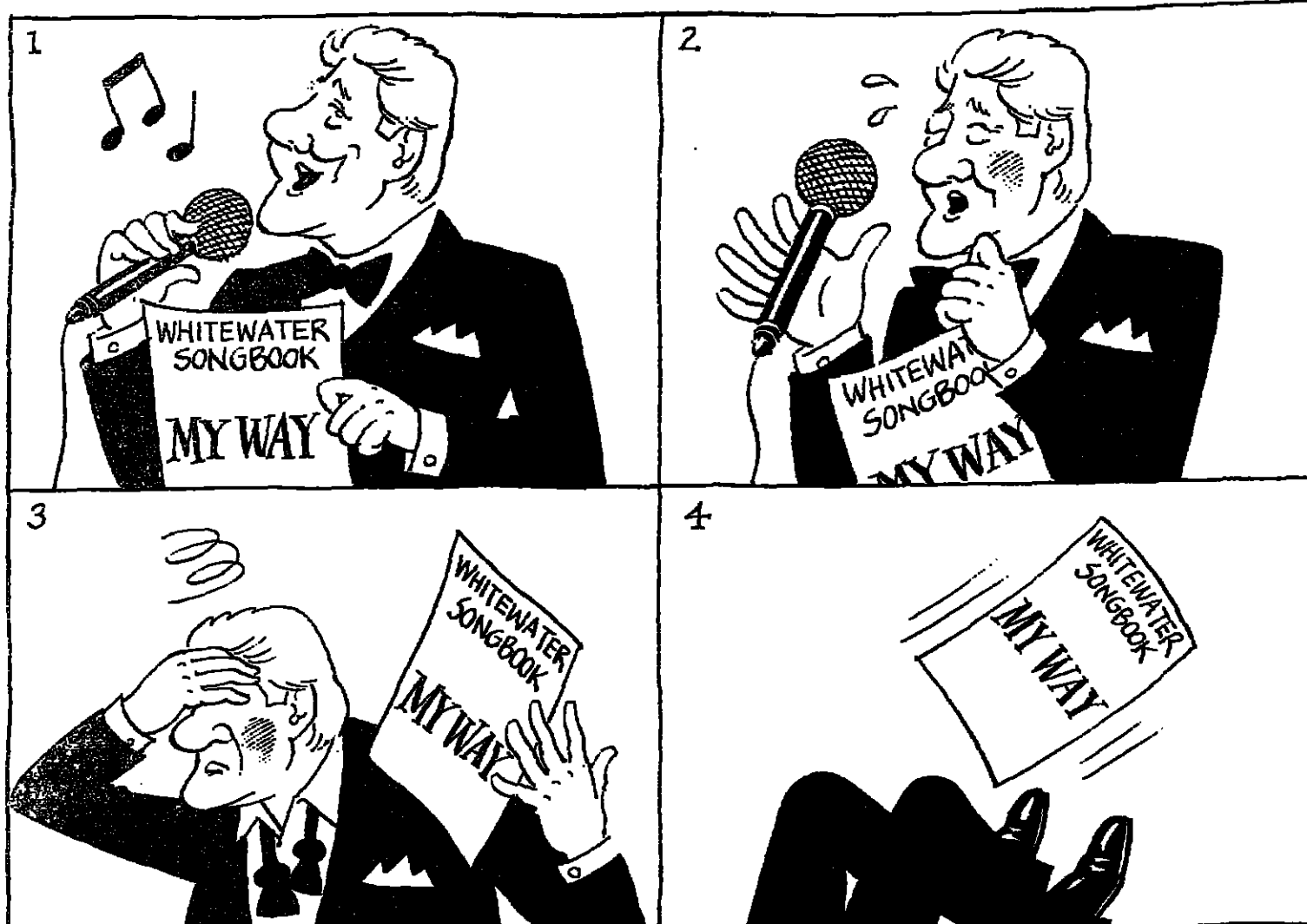
The Whitewater shenanigans are not on a par with Mr Nixon's mugging of the Constitution, but the damage to Mr Clinton's presidency may nevertheless be great.

He is once again under attack on his weakest front — trust — and again he is perceived as evasive, just as he was when questioned during the 1992 campaign about his extramarital activities and Vietnam draft record. Unless the President can command the confidence of Congress and the country, he will find it hard to effect the change he desires.

More immediately, morale in the White House has plummeted levels not seen since Mr Clinton's disastrous first few months. There is said to be rising tension between the Bill and Hillary camps, with the former increasingly overruling the latter and opting for greater openness. Both Clintons are being distracted from the urgent task of rebuilding support for the health care plan, which Congress will start taking apart this month.

Senate Republicans are meanwhile threatening wholesale obstruction unless the Democrats agree to hold public hearings, and seem increasingly likely to get their way. The hearings, one can safely predict, will be circus.

For the Clintons there will be heavy personal and political costs. They are not wealthy, but some experts say their legal defence costs could reach seven figures. By law they cannot bill the government.



OVERCOME BY THE HEAT

Peter Broom 8 iii 94

Puffed up and fuming

Before No Smoking Day, let's choke the quangoids in clouds of contempt

Have you ever noticed that whenever a new quango is created (there are, by the most recent count, 4,381, all of them leeching on the body of our society), its personnel go through a series of predictable steps?

The first is wonderment, when they see before them suites of handsome offices, smart filing-cabinets, secretaries and press offices, even pleasant dining-rooms and attractive carpets. They move in, and the second step is reached: in this, they go about with their eyes cast down, and are heard sharpening pencils which are already well sharpened. In other words, they have realised that if they are honest (and I have no reason to think them otherwise), they really have nothing to do, and in most cases never will have anything to do.

A flurry, and the third stage has been reached. They are not, of course, going to sack themselves in the light of this revelation: no quango has ever resigned because he or she has realised that the entire enterprise is a Potemkin village, nothing but the front wall. Nor has any quango ever been sacked because he or she was redundant: indeed redundancy is a word unheard in the corridors of a quango. On the contrary, every opportunity to swell the payroll is taken, and that is the meaning of the third step.

In the fourth, a dramatic change has come over the quangoids. Their early nervousness and embarrassment has disappeared entirely, and a haughty assertiveness is now everywhere to be felt: the quangoids have realised that they cannot be sacked unless they are found with their hands in the till, and that is very rare indeed — apart from the fact that they are honest, why steal, when if you can make a good case, the appropriate ministry will shell out more funds whenever they are needed (or, more exactly, whenever they are wanted)?

And now for the fifth and penultimate stage. The number of personnel has grown, multiplied, soared; every day, hundreds upon hundreds of reams of paper pour out in the form of "press releases" (would that the quangoids might be released for ever into the darkness, never to be seen or heard of again) with which, incredibly, they have managed to establish their existences, their positions and their incomes. And, thus armed in their own esteem, they take the final step.

Facilis descensus Averno. The haughtiness discerned in stage four has been replaced by something very much nastier. Now, they have reached reality: we — all the rest of us — are their subjects, to be ordered about, hectorated, shouldered down, refused redress, sneered at (a very special supercilious sneer, in which newcomers to the lists are given tuition), and required to do obedience, silence and repentance.

I am caricaturing of course, but there is a bit of truth here. What about Ash?

Ash stands for Action on Smoking and Health, and is ostensibly (watch that ostensibly!) devoted to persuading smokers to give up the dangerous weed. You would think (you would, because you are an innocent, but I don't, because I am a leathery old cynic and I know what people like those who run Ash can get up to), you would think that if they wanted to make their persuasion work they would speak quietly and gently to their clients, giving them a pleasing, soothing picture of what they would feel like when they had signed the pledge, boosting and strengthening the wavering ones, calming the desperate ones, giving three cheers for one who has finally dispensed with the stuff, and being understanding with one who has fallen back into his former life, promising that he would not be abandoned, but on the contrary would be treated like the man in the parable: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine persons, which need no repentance."

And is it like that? Hear Ash on the subject.

"Until now we have adopted a 'softly softly' approach," said Stephen Woodward, Ash's deputy director [the hell they have — B.L.L.]. "We have tried the carrot and now we are going to use the stick." Ash will back moves to have employers prosecuted... and encourage actions for negligence under common law... Medical and scientific evidence suggests that at least one non-smoker dies every day in Britain from lung cancer as a result of inhaling others' smoke...

Whoopie! Let's have lots and lots of litigation to keep the lawyers in foie gras! But did you spot the weak link? Don't be ashamed if you didn't: even I, injured to the anti-smoking lobby, missed it twice, and saw it only on the third reading. Ash says that the "Medical and scientific evidence suggests that at least one non-smoker dies every day in Britain from lung cancer as a result of inhaling others' smoke..." But "Medical and scientific evidence suggests..." means that Ash would not go so far as to say something untrue, so it slips in "suggests" to get around the truth — the truth that nobody has yet proved that anybody has died by "passive smoking".

But Ash is thus far only warning to its work: now it really starts.

Ash believes that it should now start a more aggressive campaign, believing that the threat of substantial compensation payments will force businesses to look anew... We believe that the number of workplaces... where smoking is banned would escalate considerably with more litigation...

I bet it would. But it is now time to say that it is becoming difficult to distinguish between Ash and a gang of imperiously horse-trained pirates. Can these quangoids, puffed up to bursting in their righteousness, get into their heads that they are talking about British citizens, not escapees from a Mississippi chain-gang? And as for the screaming hate that was poured out in my quotes, it seriously suggests that there are people in Ash who should be seeking psychotherapy. For among those British citizens of whose existence Ash is apparently unaware, there are seventeen million who smoke. I wish there was none: but until the day dawns, they have rights. (Incidentally, Ash gets money from public funds. The 17 million British smokers have the right to see that their share of that money is not used to hound, abuse and confine them.)

Bernard Levin

Nothing to lose in Europe

John Biffen says the Tories should campaign frankly

Douglas Hurd has collected a small team of relatively anonymous middle-ranking politicians and apparatchiks to mastermind the forthcoming European elections. I have heard few senior politicians complain that they have been excluded from this inner council. This electoral contest is a thankless challenge, fraught with risk.

The European election for British members of the Strasbourg Parliament will be fought on three broad issues. First, there will be a powerful media element determined to convert the occasion into a personal trial of strength for John Major. His qualities will not become a doorstep issue, but had results will be used by his media opponents to persuade those at Westminster whose loyalty is brittle that a change of leader is essential. The pundits will argue that heavy Tory losses provide the last available pretext for change ahead of the autumn double of a party conference and a new parliamentary session. In my view, a change is highly improbable, but Mr Hurd dare not discount it.

Secondly, the Opposition will try to turn the European contest into a nationwide by-election. That is what European elections have been in the past. In current circumstances, this could be devastating for the Government. At the last European elections, Labour led the Conservatives by 40 per cent to 35 per cent. The current poll ratings give comparable figures of around 50 per cent and 25-30 per cent, indicating a swing to Labour of nearly 10 per cent. Furthermore, the Liberal Democrats are now poised to do significantly better than in their freakishly bad showing four years ago, when they were eclipsed by the momentary splendour of the Greens.

The Opposition is determined to convert the forthcoming Strasbourg elections into a national by-election for three reasons. Such a strategy would concentrate the debate on domestic economic and welfare issues, which give the Tories such a miserable poll rating. Second, it would demonstrate the ability of the Liberal Democrats to gather tactical Labour votes and to storm hitherto safe Conservative seats. Furthermore, it would excuse the Opposition from having to argue their own ill-formulated European policy. Douglas Hurd needs no guidance on the implications of this.

Finally there is the option of emphasising the European character of the election, and as far as possible, wrenching it from the national mould. This seems to be the obvious Tory tactic. Even so, I suspect that some of Mr Hurd's associates would argue for a low-key European campaign, since this would minimise the risk of exposing Tory divisions.

This "hold your nose and think of Europe" approach should be regarded, if it will take a monumental effort to introduce European Union issues into the June election, but domestic Tory interests, and wider considerations, require a high-profile campaign. This means, in the first instance, that the European election should be only incidentally about the Strasbourg Parliament. Its activities, powers and procedures are unfamiliar. The Tory link with the declining European People's Party, agreed by Margaret Thatcher, is best left to history. There are wider European issues to put to the British public, and they cover not only British government policies agreed through the Council of Ministers, but also our prospective attitudes to the Maastricht renegotiation scheduled for 1996.

The June election will be an excellent opportunity for the Government to look ahead and share its vision. A broader European campaign could proceed under the terms set out by John Major in *The Economist* last September. He then emphasised the need to look ahead at how the European Union is developing: "... it is time to look ahead at the Community and consider the way ahead. Time to put away the old slogans, dreams and prejudice."

At the centre of the changing Union is its enlargement — almost certain — from 12 to 16 members and probably upwards of 20 thereafter. Enlargement may imply tighter monetary controls and Commission power, as Jacques Delors would argue, or it may result in a looser form of Union foreseen by the terms negotiated for Britain at Maastricht, with "opt-outs" in respect of the social chapter and monetary union.

There is also public interest in how subsidiarity can be used to reduce the burden of the common agricultural policy. People want to know how the burgeoning bureaucracy of the Union can be reduced, and how Britain's freedom from the social chapter can be maintained.

There is the opportunity for the Government to gamble on a high-profile European election, which involves setting out its post-Maastricht negotiating stall. Of course it involves the risk of an open argument about opinions honestly held, but then what are elections about? With a dismal poll rating, the Tories can afford the risk of offering the politics of choice, and not those of passing domestic discontent.

The author is MP for North Shropshire.

Clinton's clothing

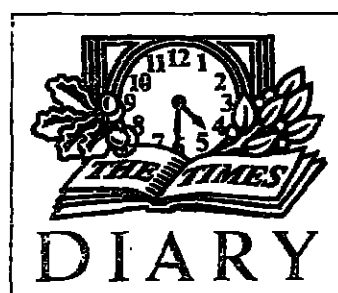
last election: and Anni Marjoram, who brought Finchley, None is happy at the boost from on-high for Hodge. One (male) official, understandably leath to incur the woman's wrath, protests: "It's had enough being told we have to pick a woman. But even the women members resent being told we must sanction Hodge just because Walworth Road wants her. That's not much use to Barking."

Clifford, who. Members of the Oxford Union will rest easier after the first address from a serving Police Commissioner. Paul Condon, who read last at St Peter's College, told them last night that the quality of service is much higher now than in the lamented days of Dr. Dosh Green.

Back to the tavern

HEARTENING news of Leslie Cowther's continuing recovery from the motorway accident he suffered in his Rolls-Royce 17 months ago, the comic will turn out tonight for the Lord's Taverners for the first time since his car careered off the hard shoulder.

Cowther, who was president of



the charity at the time of the accident, will attend the shindig in London to celebrate one of the Taverners' foremost stars, Sir John Mills. It was Mills who, with fellow actors, founded the charity in a small tavern at Lords in 1980.

"A few of us used to get together to drink some beer, watch cricket and make some money for charity," he says. "We got Prince Philip in as 12th man, and booked the Grosvenor House ballroom when we only had £10 in the kitty."

Sadly, the tavern has long since been demolished, but it has been resurrected for the event on canvas in the form of a painting by Jack Russell, the England wicket-keeper currently touring the West Indies.

While Treasury minister Stephen Dorrell was notching up a

first by addressing last week's TUC conference, Labour was also quietly winning new friends. Top mandarins in the First Division Association have picked Labour's leading spin-doctor, Peter Mandelson, as their new parliamentary adviser. "It's something of a coup," admits the Hartlepool MP modestly. "It shows that Britain's top civil servants look to the Labour Party for their champion."

Lords a-leaping

EIGHT lucky peers, equipped with walking boots, thick socks and a box of presents, set off in jolly mood from RAF Brize Norton last night for an unexpected jaunt to the Falkland Islands. They are the surprise beneficiaries of Labour's guerrilla tactics in the Commons, which put a stop to co-operation between the parties.

The all-party defence group wanted to send four members of each House on the fact-finding visit — and invited applications. But the Commonsers — Roger Gale, Tom Cox, Austin Mitchell and Neville Trotter — have been ordered to stay at home by their whips, leaving all eight places for peers.

I've never been south of the Equator before," says an excited Lord Lyell, who will mess down with Major-General Iain Mackay-

Dick, commander of British Forces, Falklands, of the Scots Guards — Lyell's old regiment. "I'm told it's like Scotland in September — so we may get sleet."

Dam shame

MALAYSIA may be toying with its Buy British Last trade policy, but for now at least, British tourists are still more than welcome in Dr Mahathir Mohamed's Kingdom during "Visit Malaysia Year '94". The tourist board — with help from British lobbyists Good Relations — has laid on more than 150 events: kite-flying, food festivals and vast flower displays.

Only one place is noticeably absent from the tourist itinerary:



the Pergau dam. It may only be a hole in the ground surrounded by masses of concrete, but surely tourists would be curious to see the cause of such diplomatic contortions? "I have no idea. I'm afraid. But I don't think there is anything planned there," sniffs Sarah Elms from Good Relations.

Much amused

THE republican-minded Beast of Bolsover has been granted an audience with the Queen. Dennis Skinner MP is to appear on television in front of Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria, who has been brought to life by the portly comic Miriam Margolyes for a Channel 1 programme later this month.

A Curse on the House of Windsor? has Her Majesty returning from beyond the grave to find out why London's Albert Memorial is surrounded in scaffolding while water drips onto the head of her beloved Albert. Setting up a draughty office on-site to investigate, she demands answers from the likes of Skinner, Andrew Neil, Lady Longford and Lord St John of Fawley.

"She was so immersed in the part that whether she was on or off the set, she was still Queen Victoria and demanded deference," says Lord St John.



MINISTER OF BOMBAST

The press is not to blame for business failure in Asia

The accusations levelled at the British press yesterday by Richard Needham, the trade minister, marked a new nadir in the Government's efforts to repair relations with Malaysia. "Fanciful exaggerations" and "bombast" in *The Sunday Times*, he claimed, had jeopardised thousands of British jobs. Generalising the charge, he added that the mischief of the British media was thwarting good business relations with fast-growing economic powers such as Indonesia, Thailand and India. By posturing as an authority on Asian culture, Mr Needham merely betrayed his ignorance.

The countries which he mentioned — and others like them — are indeed sensitive to criticisms made in the Western press: a shared language, in addition to memories of colonialism, means that British newspapers are scrutinised with particular care. Thailand, for instance, has reacted angrily to adverse coverage of its royal family and to claims that it is arming the Khmer Rouge. Indonesia turned away a plane carrying Australian passengers after the *Sunday Morning Herald* likened President Suharto to Ferdinand Marcos. Singapore has restricted foreign publications which have become awkwardly critical.

The flaw in Mr Needham's argument was to claim that such abrasions between the Western media and Asian governments are necessarily hostile to good trade relations. This is a *non sequitur*. Precisely because economic success is accorded such importance in these aggressively entrepreneurial countries, disagreements between East and West over human rights and public morality rarely disrupt the flow of capital and investment around the globe.

For years, the British press has strongly condemned Indonesia's deplorable actions in East Timor. Yet British exports to Indonesia rose from £198 million in 1991 to

£313 million in 1992. As West and East battled furiously over the definition of human rights last year, imports from this country to Asia rose by almost a third. In this respect, Dr Mahathir Mohamed's sanctions in response to British coverage of the Pergau dam affair were atypical, reflecting the peculiarities of Malaysian politics rather than a general truth about Asian values.

Mr Needham's argument was damaging as well as flawed. It will have sent an unhelpful message to Dr Mahathir that the British Government is at least partially sympathetic to his own authoritarian views on press freedom. On a morning when an amicable solution to the row over the Pergau dam seemed a little more likely, the trade minister's intervention was as poorly timed as it was craven. By signalling an inclination to appease, it may encourage Malaysia to yield no quarter and thus postpone the ending of this petulant trade row.

Elsewhere in Asia, moreover, the minority of politicians who share Dr Mahathir's old-fashioned view of the relationship between international trade and international press freedom will be heartened by Mr Needham's remarks. Those who do not will merely feel patronised by the trade minister's banal assumption that they make their trade decisions on the basis of coverage in the Western press.

Worse still, British businesses may be misled to believe that the press is to blame for their failures in Asia. That would be a fatal complacency. The battle between the developed nations for lucrative contracts in the East will be decided by enterprise, business acumen and productivity rather than by the attitude of their respective media. Mr Needham's argument was not only an insult to the principle of press freedom; it is the sort of lazy remark that damages the national economic interest.

CONSUMING ILLNESS

Tuberculosis can be contained with foresight

Despite the frequent appearance of the consumptive hero or heroine in literature, from *The Magic Mountain* to *La Dame aux Camélias*, there is nothing remotely romantic about tuberculosis. The disease which, until the invention of antibiotics, was the leading cause of death in the West is on the march again. The World Health Organisation has declared a "global emergency", and claims that 30 million lives will be lost in the next decade if appropriate action is not taken. Most worrying for the West is that developed countries, which thought they had seen the last of the disease 20 years ago, seem no longer to be immune.

In big American cities, around a third of the homeless are thought to be infected with TB. Among blacks and Hispanics, the incidence is growing particularly fast. HIV and Aids sufferers are especially vulnerable. Alarming, many sufferers are now infected with strains that are resistant to the normal antibiotics used against the illness.

TB is nothing like as infectious as the common cold but, unlike HIV, it can be spread by coughs and sneezes, usually only after prolonged contact. Middle-class New Yorkers are already spinning urban myths about the schoolteacher who helped the homeless in the evenings and spread TB to the children he taught during the day, or the lawyer who caught the disease after a tramp on the subway spat in his face. If they were wary of beggars before, they cross the street to avoid them now.

Could Britain go the same way? A survey by Crisis, published yesterday, suggests that about 2 per cent of the homeless may have the disease. TB is generally on the rise here, but its incidence is still low: roughly 6,000 cases last year. Worst affected is the London

borough of Tower Hamlets, which has seen a 40 per cent rise in five years, with 50 people infected in every 100,000 — ten times the national average. Recent immigration from countries where the disease is common is partly to blame, as are poor, damp and crowded living conditions.

But, thanks to the NHS, TB sufferers are far better off in Britain than in America. They are always seen by chest specialists and are routinely prescribed a cocktail of three different antibiotics. This is crucial if the disease is to be cured, because a single antibiotic will soon create a drug-resistant infection as the germs mutate. As long as a sufferer takes all three drugs for between six and nine months, the TB will be eradicated.

The problem is that, to take three sets of drugs each day requires discipline, especially since they can have unpleasant side-effects. If patients give up the course as soon as they feel signs of improvement, the drug-resistant strains will thrive. That is why follow-up systems are vital for the health of society as well as of the patient.

Britain tends to be better at this than America. But still the homeless are the most vulnerable. They are harder to trace, and often harder to treat once traced. Some have been discharged from mental hospitals and may not have the self-discipline to continue taking their pills. Others are uncooperative and fail to attend clinics.

So far, the drug-resistant strains have barely taken hold in Britain. If they do, it will be because people with TB who are sleeping rough have fallen through the net. A tiny investment now in specialised TB health visitors for the homeless could stave off the threat of incurable TB spreading to the rest of society in decades to come.

SAFE TRIPS

School outings need better regulation

Cheap mass travel and the broadening of education from rote-learning to doing things for oneself have vastly increased the frequency of school trips. Thousands of schoolchildren now jaunt around Europe in troops to visit the cultural capitals, amuse themselves, see the sights, experience everything from the ashes of Pompeii to skiing, and, with a bit of luck, broaden their minds.

Inevitably, there are problems. More children in the care of teachers are running into trouble out of school and even losing their lives. Over the past decade there has been a series of school trip tragedies that raises the question whether public policy could do more to prevent them. And schools, acting as amateur tour operators, can run into financial difficulties in the tough business of mass travel.

At present the Department for Education, though interventionist about what is taught in the national curriculum, does not legislate for safety on school trips. It issues bland guidance from which organisers of out-of-school activities may devise their own codes of good practice. And it leaves responsibility for safety in state schools to local education authorities, and in independent schools to the governing bodies or proprietors. Since the introduction of local management principles, responsibility for such matters, and for approving school visits, has devolved to the governors of locally managed schools.

This new age of school trips for all children is a welcome liberalisation of modern education. But it needs better

official supervision. There should be a compulsory registration, inspection and licensing regulation to ensure that all activity centres for potentially dangerous sports, such as canoeing, are properly run by qualified staff. Private coaches and minibuses, which have brought cheap new freedom of movement to schools, need more stringent licensing, and a regulation to make seat belts compulsory.

Leaders of school trips should have visited their destination beforehand, and parents should care enough to attend the meetings about a school trip. Schools should follow the guidelines about staff ratios on trips, preliminary visits and fire drills. The package travel regulations need to be amended to remove the possibility of financial disaster from schools, which pay large deposits many months before travel and are therefore not covered by bonding arrangements. The European Community recommendation on hotel fire safety should be upgraded to a directive, so that hotels, many of which are shown to be dangerous by today's Consumers' Association report, are legally compelled to meet the EC standard.

Some of those prescriptions need legislation. The increase of school trips for all children is a bonus of tourism as a mass trade. Most of them open windows on the world unavailable to the children's parents. The school trip can be the high point of the school year. But more can be done to stop it becoming the headline or the tragedy.

Hospital beds in the wrong place

From Lord Jenkin of Roding

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article on London's health services ("Bottomley's blunder", March 3) again rehearses all the arguments which have, until now, effectively frozen the pattern of hospitals, and their clinical specialities, into a time warp which changing populations, changing needs, changing practice and rising costs have long since made inappropriate.

Professor Jarman's analysis of actual bed numbers, quoted by Rees-Mogg, though deserving respect, does not alter the basic case for change. This is not that there are not enough beds; it is that they are in the wrong place. Patients, and their families, would much rather be treated nearer home than have to travel into central London. Discharge from hospital to community care is far easier, costs are lower and visiting is much easier.

GPs, too, have strongly indicated their preference for this, as I know from the surveys carried out by Forest Health-care Trust, of which I am chairman. It is not OK, as Rees-Mogg has suggested previously ("Mad elephants can ruin your health", February 14) that inner-city patients needing primary care should have to flock to accident and emergency departments. In 1980 I set up the Acheson study, whose report exposed the chronic weakness of inner-city general practice and community health services. Following Tomlinson, this is now being remedied, with over £40 million being spent this year: £85 million next year. Money must be saved on acute care to allow this process to continue.

The internal market is working and local services are now responding more sensitively to local needs. Had nothing been done about the old, outdated pattern of inner London hospitals, the result would have been a slow, debilitating decline — unless, of course, the Government had artificially continued to prop them up with extra funding at the expense of services in the outer suburbs, the Home Counties and indeed the rest of Britain. Is that what Rees-Mogg really wants? If so, let him argue this explicitly, and see how many outside inner London agree.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK JENKIN
(Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, 1979-81),
House of Lords.

Aid for Malaysia

From the Chairman of the Water Board, Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, Anatole Kalesky is incorrect to state that work on the Pergau dam has not started ("A way to break the dam", March 4; letter, March 7). Construction began in 1992 and is now well advanced. Commissioned by the Malaysian Electricity Authority, the dam has minimal environmental impact in an area covered mainly by jungle and will provide some 70 kilometres of rural access roads and facilities for the local population.

When the inevitable scars of construction have healed (which takes a remarkably short time) the area will return to an enhanced environmental framework, with the benefit of providing much-needed electrical power to a growing economy from a renewable source — water power.

The alternative of gas-fired thermal power stations is only defensible in a short-term economic accountability framework and would not be of lasting benefit. The dam must be regarded as a worthwhile environmental and long-term economic benefit to the country, and due acknowledgement should be made to the outstanding contribution by British engineers to both its conception and implementation.

Yours etc,
BRIAN ROFE,
Chairman, Water Board,
Institution of Civil Engineers,
Great George Street, SW1.

From Mr Tim Symonds

Sir, Seeing the principled way Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, handled the serious danger to the integrity of Britain's overseas aid programme (the world's sixth largest) over the Malaysian affair (report, March 4, later editions) makes me realise what a profound pity it is that life peers cannot renounce their peerage and return to a Commons urgently in need of the Chalkers of this world.

Yours sincerely,
TIM SYMONDS,
8 Poterne Wick, Devizes, Wiltshire.

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, If it were right for the Government to subsidise an arms deal with Malaysia with a £234 million gift from the aid budget in order to save British jobs, why was it wrong for the same Government to subsidise the British mining industry by a similar amount, which would have saved many more?

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Frith, London Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
March 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Rivalry on pitch and in classroom

From Mr David Watson

Sir, As an erstwhile "plodder and puffer" and non-athletic schoolmaster for 30 years, I heartily support your plea for competitive games in schools (leading article, March 2). In my experience it is good for non-academic types to be given a chance to shine, good for the academics to see themselves outdone, and good for hidden talents to be discovered.

In the Nilgiri Hills, South India, a dozen large schools hold an annual athletic tournament, superbly organised by Indian Army officers. It generates enormous excitement and enthusiasm, and trains the boys and girls — from different Indian states, different countries, and different religious backgrounds — to win with modesty and lose with dignity.

Could not some such mini-Olympics be organised among groups of schools in Britain?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WATSON,
31 Harold Heading Close,
Chatteris, Cambridgeshire,
March 2.

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, Properly planned and equitably distributed capital resources to improve the various technologies in schools are essential if we are to meet international competition. Sadly, that is not what is being devised ("Patten launches scheme to create schools for sport", March 1).

These allocations are to be made available only to actual or prospective

grant-maintained schools — or voluntary-aided schools. To some extent it is obviously a means of shoring up the failing grant-maintained school policy, and rewarding what the Government now regards as its own sector, but why voluntary-aided schools?

The Government has presented no convincing reasons why this resource should be made available to voluntary-aided schools but not to the great majority of children who attend county schools, all of which, through the local management of schools scheme, now enjoy, in practice, quite as much autonomy as voluntary-aided schools.

The policy relies on the willingness and ability of industrial and commercial sponsors supporting their chosen school. But what about children and their parents?

Such a favoured school could well be some distance from the child whose ability and potential most needs and deserves these facilities. But only the child whose parent can pay the transport cost or move house will benefit.

Private endowment always has influenced and probably always will inevitably influence the pattern of English education to some extent. Many would say that this was a price worth paying for a free society. But for the problems it creates to be compounded by government application of public moneys is nothing short of disgraceful.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER C. TIPPLE,
President,
Society of Education Officers,
2nd Floor, 3-6 Alfred Place, WC1.

Homosexuality law

From Mr Robert Ward

Sir, Enforcement of the new law forbidding homosexual acts under the age of 18 will not, unfortunately, be restricted by the principle in the Tyrrell case, as Sir Frederick Lawton suggests (letter, March 3).

The court in Tyrrell decided that a girl, between the ages of 13 and 16 could not be convicted of aiding and abetting a man to have unlawful carnal knowledge of her. The decision is therefore an authority on the law of secondary participation: the man was the principal offender, but the girl was not liable to conviction as a party to his offence.

It follows that the case can have no application to consensual buggery, where it is clear that both parties are principal offenders.

The true position is that men under the age of 18 will be liable to prosecution under the new law, whatever the age of their partners, just as men under 21 are liable to prosecution now.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WARD,
23 Cob Place,
Godmanchester,
Cambridgeshire,
March 4.

Tories in Europe

From Mr Alfred Doll-Steinberg

Sir, Perhaps Sir Donald Thompson, MP (letter, today), is right and the inability of British parliamentarians to attend the "dozens of committees" in the Council of Europe, the Western European Union and other international bodies really is doing "immense damage to our national status overseas". Perhaps and perhaps not.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED DOLL-STEINBERG,
18 Holly Walk, NW3,
March 3.

From Mr Jonathan Collett

Sir, Whilst we are very supportive of the excellent advice you offer the Conservative Party in your editorial of February 28, it is very difficult to be optimistic that Tory MEPs could run

on an anti-federalist platform. Conservative MEPs will have no credibility as anti-federalists unless they distance themselves from the European People's Party.

In view of their past performances, how can Conservative MEPs explicitly repudiate federalism and monetary union. In the European Parliament they have taken wholeheartedly to the EPP's ideas and policies?

Between February 14, 1984, and July last year they have supported and voted for several resolutions containing the phrase: "the European Parliament calls for a move from the present Community based on the Treaties to a Union of a federal type on a constitutional basis".

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN COLLETT
(Campaign Director),
The Bruges Group,
45 Maygrove Road, NW6.

India's potential

From Mr Duncan Goldie-Scott

Sir, Simon Jenkins's account (February 26) of his tour of Indian five-star hotels leaves the impression that he had a rather restricted view of his "beloved, unchanged, fragile India".

The tragedy of India is not the crass modernisation of a few hotels but the numbing poverty that the government has perpetuated through its ridiculously complex restrictions on business and trade.

The hope for the future is that the government's rather limited and hesitant liberalisation programme, continued in its budget (report, March 1), has become unstoppable: the combination of the ambitions of the younger generation, government debt and private-sector capital will succeed where political rhetoric failed.

India is an economic miracle waiting to happen. Its great wealth will not come from the preservation of imperial-age hotels for Western tourists but from allowing the country to grow as one of the world's great manufacturing and trading nations.

Simon Jenkins can take heart that there is a growing awareness of the value of preserving historic buildings. That awareness is a luxury which has grown out of the new-found wealth of cities such as Bombay.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN GOLDIE-SCOTT,
173 Tachbrook Street, SW1.

Mercouri and the glory of Greece

From Mr Alec Tilley

Sir, It has always been right to resist the claim that there was a legal or moral obligation to return the Elgin Marbles. To admit it would be to open the way for endless international bickering about what museum piece is part of whose national heritage.

But the sad death of Melina Mercouri (reports and obituary, March 7) should be the occasion for giving the Elgin Marbles to Greece. There need be no question of acceding to a demand or admitting any fault, or even that they are being given back just a gift to commemorate a lady whose beauty and spirit epitomised the best of Greece (as well as some of its irritating characteristics) for a great many people.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX TILLEY,
Fildare, East Street,
Hambleton, Waterlooville,
Hampshire,
March 7.

Troops for Bosnia

From General Sir Martin Farndale

Sir, When using military force to stop men killing each other and then to keep the peace thereafter, military men apply the principle of "minimum force". But throughout history politicians have been unable to comprehend that to be successful minimum force frequently has to be quite large. If it is too small it fails because men in conflict can see that it is too small and they therefore carry on fighting. Then, either the peacekeeper fails or he must send very much greater forces.

We are in this position in Bosnia. It is urgent that we send more troops, as the Foreign Secretary has made clear that we will if other countries do the same (report, March 5), purely to ensure that we do not fail and have to pull out or that, in trying to stay, we are not forced to send even more.

Sadly the Army has been cut so severely that it is already under great strain: it cannot properly meet existing commitments or conduct meaningful training above regimental level. This is most serious.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN FARNDALE,
16 St James's Square, SW1,
March 5.

BBC in the regions

From Miss Emma Thompson

Sir, I have just had the happy experience of filming in Scotland again for the first time in some years. Revisiting friendships and revisiting old haunts have served to reveal the depth of concern felt throughout Scotland for the future of broadcasting and its ability to be truly and properly representative in a British sense.

Can it be right, in both economic and cultural terms, that the BBC spends only 3 per cent of its network funds for television and radio in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, despite the fact that these areas contain 17 per cent of the UK population?

It is now becoming clear that only decisive and prescriptive legislation enshrined in a new charter can release the BBC's gubernatorial, managerial and editorial stranglehold to produce the investment in creativity, in all of the home nations, that will lead to a full and fair reflection of the cultural diversity of this United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA THOMPSON,
c/o Noel Gay Artists,
19 Denmark Street, WC2.

Top salaries

From Dr Michael Sanderson

Sir, The Chancellor's call for restraint in top salaries (report, March 3) should be heeded by the non-executive members of the board of the British Standards Institution (BSI).

At a reconvened meeting of the BSI AGM on Tuesday, March 8, they are seeking to double their fees with the non-executive chairman's remuneration rising from £25,000 p.a. to £50,000 p.a.

BSI functions only because of the good will of about 25,000 specialist technical committee members, who prepare our national (now international) standards, working voluntarily and for no fees or expenses.

It seems absurd that the "generals" should be rewarded handsomely while the "bootsoldiers" get nothing. How sad that a long tradition for BSI of selfless public service should have been so debased.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SANDERSON,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

Money mystery

From Mr Taylor T. Stodart

Sir, Re the man with no name freed from Swansea prison after 74 days (report, earlier editions, March 3): to whom was the compensation order for £85 made payable?

Yours faithfully,
TAYLOR T. STODART,
7 St Nicholas Road, Lanark.

Council has highways duty of care

Stovin v Wise (Norfolk County Council, third party)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment February 17]

Although the duty imposed on a highway authority by section 41(1) of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway did not require it to carry out work on the road to prevent it from becoming part of the highway, there was a common law duty of care owed to all road users by a highway authority to act to alleviate a known danger caused by persisting impaired visibility from an obstruction on land adjoining the highway.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Norfolk County Council from the judgment of Judge Peter Crawford, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court in July 1992, that the council was in breach of its common law duty and 30 per cent to blame for serious injuries sustained by the plaintiff, Mr Thomas Stovin, as a result of a collision with a car driven by the defendant, Mrs Rita Wise.

Mr Timothy Stow, QC and Mr Mervyn Roberts for the council; Mr Robert Nelson, QC and Mr Richard Hone for the defendant; the plaintiff did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the accident had occurred in December 1988 at Wymondham. The plaintiff riding a motorcycle along Station Road

was about to pass Cemetery Road on his left when the defendant drove her car out of that road colliding with the plaintiff.

The plaintiff's claim for damages against the defendant was settled but the defendant had joined the council, the highway authority, as a third party alleging it was negligent and in breach of statutory duty in failing prior to the accident to take measures to reduce the risk to road users at what was known to be a dangerous junction: the view that the defendant had to her right when at the stop line in Cemetery Road was restricted by a bank on land belonging to British Rail.

In January 1988 the council's surveyor had accepted that there was a visibility problem at the junction and had contacted British Rail to have part of the bank removed at the council's expense. The work was never done and the judge found that "persisting bad visibility" was a cause of the accident.

Section 41(1) of the 1980 Act imposed a duty on the council to maintain the highway. The judge, finding in the council's favour on that issue, held that that duty did not extend to land not forming part of the highway.

For the defendant it was submitted that the judge was wrong. The word "highway" was said, as used in section 41 should not be narrowly construed but interpreted so as to enable highway authorities to have regard to visibility. If a wall, bank or fence adjacent to the highway, Mr

Nelson said, restricted visibility then the council failed because the work could have been done in the time available, the limited resources required could and would have been made available. The judge was entitled to find as he had that persisting bad visibility was a cause of the accident.

For the council it was argued that the approach to the question of the existence of a duty of care was based in part on *Ann v Merton London Borough Council* ([1978] AC 728), a case that was no longer considered to be good law. And even if, it was said, there was a duty of care there had been no breach.

Having considered the many relevant authorities the council was in breach of its common law duty. It alone had responsibility for the maintenance of the roads where the accident occurred. Many of its duties and powers had as their principal object the promotion of the safety of road users.

The council had become aware of a dangerous restriction to visibility which it, and in reality it alone, had the physical and financial resources to eliminate, and because it had decided to devote those resources to that end.

Once the council had decided to seek the removal of British Rail it owed a duty of care to road users to press forward with its proposal with reasonable expedition. It was in breach of that duty and as a result it had contributed to the injury to the plaintiff.

It was worth noting that the decision should not lead to a flood of litigation against highway authorities for failing to improve visibility. The circumstances here were probably unique. The danger was significant, it was known to the council and subject to a landowner's agreement the council had actually decided to act at its own expense long before the accident had occurred.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, concurring, said that where a danger of physical damage existed for the highway due to the construction and layout of the highway, the highway authority was the only person to whom road users could look to remedy the situation.

The position of a highway authority bore a resemblance to that of an occupier of premises in relation to those whom he invited or allowed to come on his premises. In circumstances where the construction and layout of the highway presented an obvious risk of physical injury to users of the highway, or physical damage to vehicles, a duty of care arose.

There was a foreseeability of personal injury or physical damage to vehicles, a proximity between the highway user and the highway authority and it was fair, just and reasonable that the law should impose a duty on the council.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Daynes Hill & Perks, Norwich; Mills & Reeve, Norfolk.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment February 17]

Where a party had been induced to purchase shares by fraudulent misrepresentation, damages to be awarded as the difference between the price paid and the price which, absent the misrepresentation, the shares would have fetched on the open market and not the price which had been paid had the market known about the fraud.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Citibank NA, against the judgment of Mr Justice Chadwick (The Times April 7, 1993) for £10,764,005 plus interest for the plaintiff, Smith New Court Securities Ltd, against Citibank and another, the judgment sum to £11,996,010.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for Citibank; Mr Anthony Grabiner, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr John McCaughan for Smith New Court.

Assessing value of shares for fraud damages

Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment February 17]

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Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for Citibank; Mr Anthony Grabiner, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr John McCaughan for Smith New Court.

undiscovered fraud, the value of each share at that date was only 44p. It was on the basis of that value, not the price at which the shares would have changed hands in the market, that Smith New Court was entitled to recover.

Citibank appealed contending, *inter alia*, that Smith New Court was only entitled to recover on the basis of the price at which the shares would have changed hands being £2.25p or at all events not less than 78p each.

Ascertaining the true measure of damages recoverable was complicated by the unusual and dramatic events which affected the Ferranti share price after the sale to Smith New Court on July 21, 1989 but before the fraudulent nature of the representations had been discovered in December 1989.

On the date of the sale the screen price, the price at which market makers were willing to deal in relatively small parcels, was 59p. It declined steadily over the summer.

On September 11 the directors announced that information had come to their attention which required a restatement of the 1989 accounts which had been published in August. Dealings in the shares were suspended.

In September 1989 the chairman sent a letter to shareholders telling them that Ferranti had been the victim of a gigantic fraud perpetrated by a Mr Guerin, an American arms dealer. The discovery reduced the company's net worth from £371 million to £200 million and its profits in the previous year from £20 million to £11 million. There was no suggestion that Citibank knew anything about the fraud when it sold the shares on July 21.

When trading in Ferranti shares resumed on October 3, the screen price was 55p. When the company published its revised audited accounts they showed that the effects of the fraud were worse than predicted. The screen price fell further. On November 20, Smith New Court began to trickle the shares on to the market. Over the following months it obtained prices ranging from 49p down to 30p. By April 30, 1990 it had sold them all.

The damages claimed in the statement of claim were the difference between the price paid, £2.25p, and the true value of the shares on the date of the acquisition.

Citibank argued that the true value was the price for which, absent the misrepresentation, the shares could have been sold in the market. That could not on any view have been less than 78p, which was the price Smith New Court was willing to pay for a bought deal.

Mr Justice Chadwick had decided that it was the price which would have been paid if the market had known about the fraud which was revealed in September. That, after hearing expert evidence, he determined at 44p.

One of the most important

elements in valuation was what assumption should be made about the information which was available to the market. It seemed to their Lordships that there were only two possibilities.

The first was to assume that the market knew everything it needed to know but was not influenced by the misrepresentation itself. The second was to assume that the market was omniscient, that is, it knew everything relevant to the price of the shares which was in fact the case.

The first was a rational principle upon which to calculate the loss which directly flowed from the representation on the relevant date. The second was, in their Lordships' view, entirely arbitrary and allowed the damages to be increased or diminished by any fact or event which, unknown to anyone, actually existed or occurred before the relevant date, provided that it had emerged before the trial.

In their Lordships' view, Mr Justice Chadwick could only have assumed the market to know about the September revelations by applying a general assumption of omniscience. But that seemed such an arbitrary and irrational assumption that their Lordships were reluctant to declare it English law unless clearly bound by authority to do so.

The essence of Mr Grabiner's argument was that in a case in which the purchase had been induced by a fraudulent misrepresentation and the purchaser had acted entirely reasonably in retaining the shares, it was wrong to assume that the market knew about the risk of catastrophic events, like the discovery of Mr Guerin's fraud, should fall upon the innocent purchaser rather than the fraudulent vendor.

Their Lordships could see the force of the argument, but the injustice stemming from the rigidity of two rules which Mr Grabiner did not challenge.

First, the denial of a restitutionary remedy, which would leave the risk of subsequent devaluation of the shares on the fraudulent vendor, unless there could be restitution of the very same shares in specie and secondly, the rule in *Waddell v Bickley* ([1892] 4 QBD 678), which required the damages to be calculated as at the date of the sale. The effect of those rules could not be overturned by introducing the startling concept of omniscience into the mundane process of valuation.

Therefore, the correct measure of damages was the difference between £2.25p and the price which, absent the misrepresentation, the parcel of shares would have fetched on the open market on July 21, 1989.

In their Lordships' judgment, 78p was the market price on the date in question. The loss was therefore 42.5p a share and the damages had to be reduced from £10,764,005 to £11,996,010.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Continuing failure was one event

Caudle and Others v Sharp Grove v Sharp

Before Mr Justice Clarke

[Judgment February 23]

A continuing failure to take proper steps to investigate the risks inherent in writing reinsurance contracts could amount to one event from which the negligent writing of each subsequent contract flowed.

Mr Justice Clarke so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing the appeals of (i) Mr B. F. Caudle, Mr D. R. Neill, St Paul Fire & Marine Insurance (UK) Ltd and Sphere Drake Insurance plc and (ii) of Mr Peter Grove, all reinsurers under

reinsurance contracts with the respondent, Mr Alec Sharp, the representative underwriter of the Sharp syndicate at Lloyd's.

The appeals were against the decision of arbitrators on September 1, 1991 that the appellants were liable to the respondent under reinsurance contracts providing for indemnification in respect of liability for losses exceeding prescribed limits for "each and every loss... arising out of one event".

The losses were incurred by the respondent as a result of errors and omissions in the contracts which involved in the Outwaite syndicate which suffered enormous losses as a result of 32 reinsurance contracts drafted by Mr Outwaite.

Mr Julian Flaux for the appellants; Mr Steven Gee, QC, for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE CLARKE said that the appellants had submitted that Mr Outwaite had been negligent each time he wrote one of the 32 contracts and that the loss caused did not arise out of one event but out of 32 events.

If that was right the claims would fail because unless the respondent could aggregate the losses in respect of all, or at least some, of the contracts they could not exceed the financial limits in the insuring clause.

In his Lordship's judgment, one of the express purposes of the contract was to provide reinsurance in respect of liabilities arising out of professional negligence. Such liability could arise out of a negligent act or omission.

Thus the contract should be construed in such a way as to include liability arising out of a series of losses caused by an omission. For that reason the phrase "any one event" had to include any one omission.

Once it was accepted that in the context of errors and omissions reinsurance an event could be either an act or omission there was no difficulty in holding that it could be a state of affairs.

Thus, Mr Outwaite's continuing failure to take proper steps throughout the period he wrote the 32 run off contracts was one event from which the negligent writing of each contract flowed.

It was true that Mr Outwaite had exercised a separate underwriting judgment in each case and that there would have been no loss under each of the run off contracts unless each of them had been written.

But it did not follow that one of the key causes of his writing each contract had not been his continuing failure to take proper steps to investigate the risks inherent in writing the contracts.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert and Simmons & Simmons; Waltons & Morse.

Solicitor was not employee

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Gilchrist

A solicitor who, under a contract with a telephone re-routing service, gave advice by telephone to persons detained at a police station during unsocial hours, gave such advice in his own right and was not an employee or agent of that service and was therefore entitled to remuneration under section 2(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stoughton and Sir Francis Purchas) so held on February 7 when dismissing the appeal of the Legal Aid Board from the judgment of Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny (The Times April 9, 1993) who granted judicial review brought by application by Mr Stephen Gilchrist, a solicitor, and quashed the decision of the board on May 5 and 8, 1992 that it was prohibited from paying advising solicitors in the service run by Healthcare Services Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the contract between a solicitor who had applied to join the service and Healthcare stated in plain terms that that solicitor was not an employee.

At the material time Mr Christopher Nigel Roberts was employed by Citibank as the head of its private banking department. He was also an executive director of Scrimgeour Vickers and a member of the stock exchange.

Smith New Court's claim arose out of its purchase on July 21, 1989 of 28,141,424 ordinary shares in Ferranti International plc at a price of £2.25p each, totalling approximately £23 million. Scrimgeour Vickers sold the shares to Smith New Court as broker New Court of Citibank to which they had been charged by a United States company as security.

Smith New Court's case was that it had been induced to purchase the shares by one or more fraudulent misrepresentations made by Mr Roberts on behalf of Citibank.

Smith New Court's purchase was concluded in the course of a telephone conversation on July 21, the three representations on which it relied having allegedly been made earlier that day.

Mr Justice Chadwick had found that two of the representations had been made. Circumstances entitling Smith New Court to recover damages equivalent to the difference between the price paid and the true value of the shares on July 21. He also found that, by reason of another unconnected and then

Walker had no custody of dog

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals v Miller

It was open to justices to hold that a defendant who held a dog's lead in a public procession for more than an hour but under the supervision of its owner did not have custody of the dog for the purposes of section 2 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Ralph Gibson

and Mrs Justice Smith) so held on February 9 when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the RSPCA against the dismissal on November 9, 1992 of an information alleging that contrary to section 2 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, Michael Miller had on June 27, 1992 the custody of a dog in contravention of an order made on June 20, 1991 under section 1 of the Act, as amended by the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1988.

MRS JUSTICE SMITH said that, having regard to the degree of direction, supervision and control over the animal retained by the dog's owner, who knew of the defendant's disqualification, had asked him to walk the dog in the procession and remained at all material times no more than five yards away from the animal, the justices were entitled to hold, in a perhaps borderline case, that the defendant did not have custody of the dog within section 2 of the Act.

But it did not follow that one of the key causes of his writing each contract had not been his continuing failure to take proper steps to investigate the risks inherent in writing the contracts.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert and Simmons & Simmons; Waltons & Morse.

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THE TIMES

Power to receive evidence on appeal

Regina v Guppy and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment February 18]

On appeal against sentence, the Court of Appeal was empowered to receive evidence, if tendered, of any witness, including an appellant, under sections 11(3), 23(1)(c) and 23(3) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when giving rulings and directions concerning the future conduct of the appeals of Darius Nicholas Lechmere Guppy and Benedict Justin Marsh against sentences imposed upon them at Staines Crown Court (Judge Brooke) on March 25, 1993, for conspiracy to defraud, conspiracy

to steal and conspiring to commit false accounting.

Mr Timothy Langdale, QC, for Mr Guppy; Mr John Kirby and Mr Marsh; Mr James Curtis, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the appeals were initially listed for hearing on February 1, 1994. On the evening before, files comprising several hundred pages were delivered to the court by the solicitors for the appellants, for the purpose of supporting their respective explanations to the police in March 1993.

That was a very unsatisfactory position, not least because counsel for the Crown had made it clear on an earlier occasion that although he did not seriously question Mr Marsh's explanation, he did challenge

Mr Guppy's. Accordingly, it was proposed, without opposition from counsel for either appellant, that the court should order affidavits to be sworn by both appellants, giving full disclosure of means and of the eventual destiny of the money or jewellery stolen by them.

On the resumed hearing, commencing on February 4, and after having conducted further research, it was submitted by counsel for the appellants, as well as counsel for the Crown, that the court had no jurisdiction to order an appellant to give evidence whether by affidavit or in any other form, having regard to the extent of its jurisdiction, under sections 11 and 23 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

That was a very unsatisfactory position, not least because counsel for the Crown had made it clear on an earlier occasion that although he did not seriously question Mr Marsh's explanation, he did challenge

Having considered the validity of the court's previous proposed order, their Lordships said that the previous order, compelling the appellants to swear affidavits, was in excess of the court's jurisdiction and that the court's power to compel a witness to give evidence was prescribed by section 23(1)(b) in the event that the witness would have been compellable in the proceedings from which the appeal lay.

In conclusion, their Lordships said that it was appropriate for the court to invite Mr Guppy to give oral evidence in court and to rule that the court would be prepared to receive such evidence from him under sections 23(1)(c) and 23(3).

Solicitors: Burton Copeland; CPS.

Human Rights Law Report

Trial fair despite courtroom screen

Stanford v United Kingdom

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges Thor, Villjaumsson, F. Meier, L. E. Penlid, giving Meyer, R. Peckar, Sir John Freeland, J. Makarczyk and D. Gochev

Registrar M. A. Eissen [Judgment February 23]

The European Court of Human Rights held unanimously that there had been no violation of article 6, paragraph 1, of the European Convention on Human Rights as regards the inability of Mr Stanford to hear some of the evidence given in the course of his trial.

Article 6 of the Convention stipulates: "1. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair... hearing... by a tribunal..."

"3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights: (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given free of charge when the interests of justice so require; (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him; (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court."

On June 8, 1988 Mr Stanford stood trial at Norwich Crown Court on various counts of rape, indecent assault, unlawful sexual intercourse, kidnapping and making threats to kill arising out of his relationship with a young girl.

On June 15 he was convicted on one count of rape, one of indecent

assault, one of kidnapping and one of making threats to kill. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

During the trial he was placed in the dock, at the front of which was a glass screen. He was unable to hear, *inter alia*, some of the evidence given and complained about that to the prison officer on duty in the dock and to his solicitor and counsel, who decided not to request the judge to have him moved to a place where he could hear.

Applications by Mr Stanford for leave to appeal against his conviction on the ground, *inter alia*, that he could not hear the proceedings were refused by a single judge on September 13, 1988 and by the Court of Appeal on October 6, 1989.

Following a complaint made in another case over a year later, a report was prepared on the acoustics of the courtroom in question. It concluded that although the screen reduced the sound level in the dock, a person speaking normally from the front of the courtroom was intelligible.

The application was lodged with the Commission on January 8, 1990. It was declared admissible on February 10, 1992.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up a report on October 21, 1992 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been no violation of article 6, paragraph 1 (by eleven votes to seven).

The Commission referred the case to the Court on December 11, 1992.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows: "The Court had to consider the proceedings as a whole including

the decision of the appellate court. Its task was to ascertain whether the proceedings in their entirety, as well as the way in which evidence was taken, were fair; see, *inter alia*, *Edwards v United Kingdom* (The Times January 21, 1993; Series A No 247-B, pp34-35, paragraph 34).

It was not in dispute between those appearing before the Court that the applicant had had difficulties in hearing some of the evidence given during the trial. Nor was it disputed that article 6, read as a whole, guaranteed the right of an accused to participate effectively in a criminal trial.

That included not only the right to be present but also to hear and follow the proceedings. Such rights were implicit in the very notion of an adversarial procedure and could also be derived from the guarantees contained in article 6.3(c), (d) and (e).

In the present case neither the applicant nor the legal representatives sought to bring his hearing difficulties to the attention of the trial judge at any stage throughout the six-day hearing.

Counsel, who had lengthy experience in handling criminal cases, chose for tactical reasons to remain silent about the difficulties and there was nothing to indicate that the applicant disagreed with his decision.

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Oil price slides on output worries

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FAILURE by Gulf ministers to address ways of raising oil prices at a meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, fuelled market fears that key producers are unwilling to cut output, forcing prices down sharply. On London's International Petroleum Exchange, Brent Blend, the benchmark crude, for April delivery dropped as low as \$13.05 a barrel, a fall of 40 cents from Friday's close, before starting to recover.

But renewed concern about the output plans of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) could prompt dealers to push the price below \$12.90 a barrel, the five-year low reached in mid-February.

Abdullah al-Attiyah, Qatar's oil minister and current Opec president, had said that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies would discuss how to raise the oil price at the Jeddah meeting. But ministers apparently opted to leave the issue, until the next scheduled Opec meeting in Geneva on March 25. Mehdi Varzi, oil analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, says in his latest market report that Saudi Arabia, the leading exporter, seems unlikely to agree to cut its production.

Opec production in February rose by 120,000 barrels per day, to 24.76 million, despite a further decline in Iranian output, the Middle East Economic Survey estimated. Iran was under its 3.6 million barrel per day quota in both January and February.

North Sea storms, page 29

British Coal chief sees cut-throat battle ahead

■ British Coal is fighting to win back market share from imports before it is offered for sale later this year, and threatens the emerging independent sector

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISATION of the coal industry is likely to lead to a period of cut-throat competition and the collapse of some new entrants, Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, said. Competition will be intensified by a new drive by British Coal to recapture sales lost to imports, Mr Clarke told a Coal Industry Society lunch in London yesterday. Already, he said, the state corporation had clawed back lost markets, such as supplying coke to British Steel in south Wales.

The warning of tough competition ahead comes as British Coal is fighting to maximise its markets before it is offered for sale in five regional units later this year. It also faces competition from independent mining groups, such as RJB Mining and Coal Investments, which are reopening pits closed by British Coal. With the electricity supply market largely captured by British Coal through five-year contracts, independent producers are concentrating on the industrial, commercial and household markets, where imports exceed three million tonnes of the 12 million tonnes annual demand.

Mr Clarke rejected charges that British Coal has turned its back on these opportunities, insisting that it had begun to win back customers from imports. "The volumes are small, but we are determined that

where business is available and where it is consistent with our commercial needs, we will compete to win," he said.

Reopening surplus capacity shut by British Coal would lead to intense competition in a limited market, Mr Clarke said. "It would seem inevitable that ultimately some producers will be squeezed from the market," he said. "This is not likely to be a war without casualties."

Transfer of three collieries for operation under licence by private groups had been agreed, and negotiations were well advanced on three more.

British Coal had moved to anticipate increased competition, and was seeing results from meeting customer criticisms on quality, Mr Clarke said. More attention to blending had enabled the corporation to recover sales to the cement industry and the National Health Service that had been lost to imports, he said.

Improvements in British Coal productivity had "transformed" its competitiveness. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has criticised terms proposed by the Government for coal privatisation. Royalties would secure more cash for the taxpayer than proposed one-off payments, it said, and plans to sell colliery freeholds and offer 99-year leases on mineral reserves were flawed.

British COAL



Neil Clarke: expects casualties in coal war after privatisation

Arrears halved at Bristol & West

By SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE
CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE arrears at the Bristol & West, the tenth largest building society, nearly halved last year to £71 million, as a result of the society's policy of repossessing properties rather than continuing to allow borrowers to build up larger arrears.

John Burke, chief executive, said the society had made "major inroads" into arrears. But he added: "The reality often is that it is better to repossess earlier rather than let people get further into arrears." Bad debt provisions were also down by 14.6 per cent to £63.3 million.

The reduction in arrears and lower bad debt provisions helped lift pre-tax profits to £41.3 million, 5.6 per cent higher than the £39.1 million pre-tax profit for 1992, an unexpected rise compared with many of its competitors.

However, Bristol & West's pre-tax profits for 1992 were subsequently restated under accounting standard FR3, which changed the treatment of extraordinary items and property-related profits. Using the new standard, Bristol & West's profits in 1992 fell to £14 million and 1993's profits were nearly three times 1992's. Mr Burke said: "This shows our underlying results are extremely strong."

An increase in income from insurance and investment commission, to £76.8 million from £57.7 million, also helped raise profits. B&W is a tied agent of Eagle Star for life assurance and personal pensions. Unlike some rivals, it has no plans to launch its own life company. Its link with Eagle Star was reviewed last year and continued. It has also opened all files of customers advised to transfer from company to personal pensions, as investigations into mis-selling in the industry continues. The B&W said it is confident there was no mis-selling and it would not need provisions.

Inflows of retail funds from savers rose 127 per cent to £229.7 million, allowing the B&W to cut wholesale funding from 27.8 per cent of shares and deposits to 25.1 per cent. Gross mortgage lending rose 11.6 per cent to £11 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BOC makes Giordano non-executive chairman

RICHARD Giordano, the chairman of British Gas who was one of the highest paid directors during the early 1980s, has stepped up his involvement at BOC Group, the industrial group where he was formerly chairman and chief executive. Mr Giordano, 59, is taking over as non-executive chairman at BOC next month, replacing Patrick Rich, 63, who is standing down due to ill health. Mr Giordano, currently a non-executive director at BOC, was the company's chief executive from 1979 to January 1991 and chairman from 1985 to January 1992. As a result of his move to a non-executive director, he left behind a remuneration of £1,047,771.

The company would not reveal his non-executive salary, but it paid six directors £20,000 to £25,000 last year. The next highest salary was between £85,000 and £90,000, while Mr Rich was paid £786,393 in his capacity as chairman and chief executive for the year to September 1993. Since then, Mr Rich has relinquished the chief executive's role, being replaced by Pat Dyer. BOC said: "Mr Giordano's salary is not yet decided but it will reflect his non-executive status."

Shaw to quit Lloyd's role

NEIL Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, is standing down as chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, the representative body for names. Mr Shaw, who is to leave the association's annual meeting in July, has been chairman for the last two years. He said his "commitments at Tate & Lyle and elsewhere are such that I can no longer give the time that the chairmanship of the association demands". The ALM committee is proposing to appoint Sir David Berriman as chairman. ALM is urging Lloyd's to return an estimated £400 million of reserves to names.

Candover lifts payout

CANDOVER Investments, the venture capital group, will reap a £2.4 million profit from the flotation of Midland Independent Newspapers this month. Candover led institutional investors that supported the group's buyout from Ingersoll in 1991. Roger Brooke, Candover's chairman, said 1994 heralded greater buyout activity after a relatively quiet 1993. Last year, Candover's pre-tax profit was £3.3 million (£4.1 million), affected by lower interest rates and reduced financing fees. But the total dividend is increased to 11p from 10.25p, with a 7.05p final (6.5p).

Lufthansa cuts losses

LUFTHANSA, the German airline in which the federal government aims to reduce its 51.4 per cent holding to a minority stake later this year, more than halved its operating loss in 1993, from about DM1 billion in 1992, a company spokesman said. He added that the national carrier's goal this year was to break even. America has made a fresh offer to Bonn about bilateral air transport ties. But Lufthansa, whose alliance with United Airlines, the US carrier, has been held up by Washington, said Germany would not agree to a civil aviation deal at any price.

Parkdean beats weather

PARKDEAN Leisure, the holiday parks group floated last October, gave an improved full-year profits performance in the face of what it called "the worst summer weather in the company's history". It made pre-tax profits of £811,000 (£502,000) in the year to November 30, 1993, with earnings per share up 13 per cent to 6.9p. The dividend is 1.3p. Graham Wilson, managing director, said Parkdean's improved performance was also against the backdrop of severe price-cutting by competitors. Mr Wilson said current bookings were up 6 per cent by volume, 10 per cent by revenue.

Wembley raises £11m

WEMBLEY, the leisure group, has sold a 50 per cent interest in its computerised ticket and management information operations to form a new joint venture with Ticketmaster Corporation. Wembley, which owns the north west London stadium, is raising £11 million through the sale to Ticketmaster of interests in CATS (Computerised Automated Ticket Sales) Systems Ltd, Cinema Computer Systems GmbH, and Pacer CATS Corporation. The money will cut Wembley's debts. In 1992, the Pacer CATS companies made aggregate profits of £12 million on sales of £115 million.

Financial Report

1993 SKF Group Results

SKF is the world's leading company in the rolling bearings industry, with a world market share of approximately 20 per cent.

The SKF Group's sales during the 1993 fiscal year totalled 29,200 million Swedish kronor (£2,498m) compared with SEK 26,649m (£2,610m) in the preceding year. Following adjustment for CTT Tools, which was included in the 1992 sales figure, and the effects of the weaker Swedish krona, Group sales decreased by approximately 4 per cent, compared with 1992. The Group's loss after financial income and expense was SEK -669m, (£-57m) compared with SEK -1,777m (£-174m) in the preceding year. In addition to earlier allocations, costs of approximately SEK 250m (£21m) for the ongoing rationalization process were charged against results for the year. During the final quarter of the year, a gain of approximately SEK 160m (£14m) was recorded, relating to the sale of fixed assets.

The 1993 fiscal year was yet another year characterized by extensive restructuring activity within SKF. Cost reductions and continued personnel reductions were combined with productivity improvement measures, intensive market cultivation and an unchanged level of investments in research and development.

During the final quarter of the year, however, an improvement in sales was noticeable and deliveries increased. The improvement applied to both the automotive and the machinery segment, as well as the after-market.

SKF continued to reap successes in the automotive industry. SKF was appointed supplier for almost all of the bearing applications in the Saab 900.

SKF also supplies Hub Units for such vehicles as the new Opel Astra, Citroën Xantia and Fiat Punto.

In the trucks segment, SKF is the main supplier of bearings for the FH series. Volvo's new truck generation.

Prospects for 1994

During 1993 the Group's result improved gradually. This development is expected to continue during 1994 and lead to a positive result.

For more information please contact
SKF Group Public Affairs S 415-50
Göteborg, SWEDEN Tel: +46-31-3710 00

Average rate of exchange 1993 1GBP=11.69 SEK.
1992 1GBP=10.21 SEK.

AB SKF

SKF

Australians strip their walls for gold

FROM COLIN CAMPBELL IN PERTH

LUCKLESS—investors in Australian mining shares who lost money in the mining market crash of the late-1980s are peeling off their old mining share certificates that have adorned halls and living rooms as wallpaper and which could now be worth money.

A new exploration boom in Western Australia is in the making, and because the cost of listing new companies on the stock exchange can run up to A\$500,000 (£243,000) shell companies

are in demand. Ross Louthean, editor and publisher of Australia's leading mining magazine and a noted commentator on mining shares, says between 30 and 40 mining companies have been revived in the past year due to renewed interest in mining.

Mr Louthean said: "In today's exploration climate, a newcomer needs to raise sufficient capital to see through a two-and-a-half year drilling programme to prove up a viable deposit, and that means raising up to A\$5 million. But if lifting costs, company

registration fees and red tape eat up A\$250,000-A\$500,000 of the initial capital, drilling programmes suffer and companies fail to realise their prospectus hopes.

"So companies that have retained their listings, but might well have lost their way and their capital, are in demand. Exploration activity in Western Australia for gold, diamonds and other minerals is hotting up."

Mr Louthean expects exploration figures for 1994 will be a record. Even though gold mining first started in

Kalgoorlie 101 years ago, and even though the ground has been well trodden by the great and the good, he forecasts a host of new mines have yet to be discovered in and around Kalgoorlie.

A big indicator of mining activity is availability of drilling rigs. These can cost up to A\$150,000 new. Junior exploration companies tend to hire such equipment—but today not one drill rig is available. Two years ago, many gold companies were valued for the worth of their old plant as scrap metal. Today it is worth money.

Cupid slides on losses warning

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

SHARES in Cupid, the quoted bridalwear group, fell 27 per cent when it gave warning of large losses in this financial year, and indicated strongly that Richard Shaw, chief executive, will leave.

The company's shares fell 6p to 16p as USM-quoted Cupid also said losses for the year to March 31, 1994 would be before adjustments connected with the corporate restructuring already announced. Stephen Riley, finance director, said additional significant asset write-downs were "a possible scenario".

The group's statement said Mr Shaw, chief executive for just a year, had been "temporarily requested by the board not to take any executive actions" and was in talks with the company. Mr Riley said it was "the consensus of the board that the restructuring requires a change of senior management." He added it was "a likelihood" Mr Shaw would go. The chief executive

is on a one-year rolling contract, and his last publicly reported salary was £75,000.

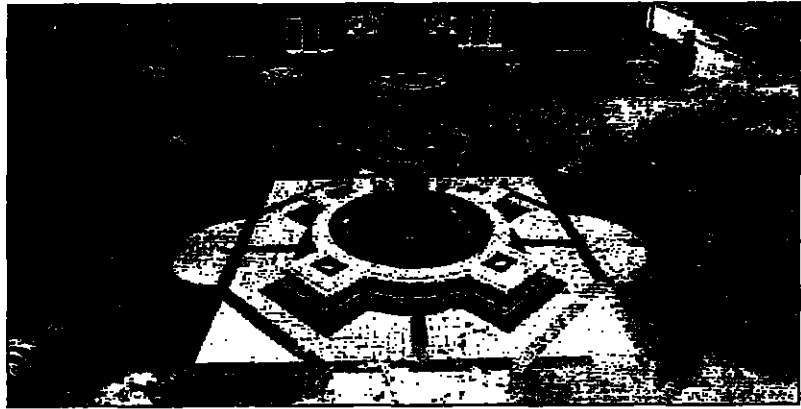
Cupid, which in January announced deepening interim losses of £456,000 (£168,000 loss), said further equity fund raising would be required, and talks were advanced with potential providers. It held a £1.8 million rights issue and placed last year. The finance director said it was premature to say if there would be further board appointments.

The company saw a significant shake-up last month when Henry Lewis, a former joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, quit as a non-executive after just seven months, and two new directors joined. Simon Raynaud joined as non-executive chairman along with another non-executive, James Dudgeon.

In the middle of 1993, analysts were expecting the company, which owns Young's and Prontopia, to make profits of nearly £1 million this year.

THE TIMES READER OFFER A Masterclass in Austrian cookery

Cuisine of The Habsburg Empire



Following the success of last year's Cookery Masterclass, *The Times* and the St James Court Hotel invite you to a demonstration and dinner prepared by one of Europe's most celebrated chefs. Herbert Lackner - Head Chef at the Romantikhotel, Die Gersberg Alm near Salzburg - has cooked for most of Europe's royal families, including Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Throughout March, the Tyrolean character of his hotel will be re-created in the St James Court's Café Méditerranée as part of their Austrian Food Festival. On three evenings - March 24th, 25th and 26th - Herr Lackner

ST JAMES COURT

M E N U

Demonstration and Dinner

L'Auberge de Provence

St James Court Hotel

March 24th, 25th and 26th 1994

Several strips of beef in a wine and vegetable jelly

Fillet of sole perch with a potato crust

Saffron risotto of "Emmentaler"

Swiss "Jahann Lumb" in a creamy sauce

Steak and mint strudel

A light millefeuille of strawberries, cream and chocolate

The dinner will be accompanied by a selection of exceptional wines from "Weingut Rauscher"

will be demonstrating and explaining his techniques in the Hotel restaurant, L'Auberge de Provence.

At the climax of the masterclass you will be able to enjoy a sumptuous four-course dinner fit for a Habsburg Emperor, accompanied by a selection of exceptional red and white Austrian wines supplied by Weingut Romerhof.

The cost for this evening is only £58 per person, including all wines, service and VAT.

Times readers are also offered the opportunity to stay the night at the St James Court at a special price of just £45 per person sharing a twin-bedded room. Breakfast, service and VAT are included.

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	Price	Date 1994	Quantity
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The Times St James Court Masterclass, THP, 45 Basinghall Park Street, London N1 1QB.
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Financial Report

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AB SKF **SKF**

he chairman of British Airways was
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chairman of British Airways. He is
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and also chairman of the board of
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Financial Report

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□ BA refuses further cash for USAir □ Regulators can learn from US counterparts □ Divorce in vogue at bridalwear firm

Winter in the North Atlantic

THE world's favourite airline held a landmark event last month in the less-than-prepossessing surroundings of its training centre in a concrete block on the outskirts of Heathrow. As the snow fell and jumbos roared overhead, the chairman and chief executives of British Airways, USAir and Qantas gathered for the first time under one roof to address an audience of brokers and analysts, a quarter of whom were from the US.

Just two weeks ago, "investors' day" was meant to extol the virtues of the world's most profitable airline, and explain its future direction under the "grand alliance". But for those with ears to hear, problems were already becoming apparent.

A brash and enthusiastic presentation by Seth Schofield, veteran chief of USAir, was tempered by references to heavy losses, the need for job cuts, and the new threat on its home ground from "no-frills" domestic competitors such as Southwest and CALife.

Those present who recognised that CALife was not a new low-alcohol lager were suitably impressed that action would be taken. For the rest of us, the implications of Schofield's warnings are now clear.

USAir, one-quarter owned by BA and the American cornerstone of the worldwide alliance,

is immersed in such a sea of red ink that further investment from Britain is being withheld. The promised \$450 million will only arrive when Schofield turns it around. Not for the first time, Sir Colin Marshall is acting to protect his own bottom line.

But there's a touch of "high noon" about BA's refusal to invest in the fast-approaching deadline of March 17, beyond which the Clinton White House is threatening to tear up existing code-sharing arrangements between BA and USAir. The code-share allows seamless through flights for BA/USAir passengers on selected routes; tear those seams, and a key section of the alliance falls apart. "A hostile act", BA rightly calls it.

The White House, with the sensitivity to world trade we have come to expect from politicians trained in Little Rock, prefers to listen to the increasingly hysterical protests from American Airlines' Robert Crandall — also struggling against the red ink — and from Delta, which despite boasting "more flights to Europe than the Europeans" is bitter about its

inability to fly in to Heathrow. But the argument is not simply US versus UK — United, the other Heathrow carrier, is notably critical of attempts to spark a transatlantic air war.

Clinton's transport secretary Federico Pena would do well to listen when Marshall makes ominous mutterings about a quarter of BA's shareholders being American, not to mention USAir's own staff and shareholders. Don't forget — a quarter of the investor audience on that snowy day was American. If Pena is planning a poker game with John MacGregor, don't expect BA to blink first.

SIB looks to the SEC

THE cruel belief that regulation, Securities & Exchange Commission style, by and large works, while regulation, Securities and Investments Board style, by and large doesn't, has clearly not been lost on Andrew Large, chairman of the latter.

Large last night told the Chancery Bar Association that much



can be learnt from the relationship between the SEC and the US criminal authorities. With little attempt to hide his envy, Large noted that insider dealing in the US can be dealt with both under criminal law and as an administrative offence for which the SEC may secure "swingeing financial penalties of three times the profit made or loss avoided". In practice, the SEC does most of the investigative work, the most serious cases being dealt with by criminal prosecutors. But, in Large's words: "There are many cases where it is considered that the public interest can properly be served by disgorgement of profits and the payment of financial penalties direct to the SEC, the civil regulatory au-

thority, which passes them to the US Treasury... Knowledge that the criminal route is available acts as a deterrent; the availability of the civil settlement route provides a quick — and public — disposal in cases where prosecution is not essential."

Illustrating the fragmented UK system, Large pointed out that the criminal offence of insider dealing is prosecuted in England and Wales by the DTI, sometimes by the Crown Prosecution Service and sometimes by the Stock Exchange. Meanwhile, the statutory power to investigate insider dealing rests not with SIB, but with the DTI. Then again, the lead government department for insider dealing policy is the Treasury. Cases of market manipulation of sufficient seriousness or complexity are prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office, and less serious and complex cases by the CPS and the DTI. For good measure, little arrow, presumably, right through the heart, Richard Lee stepped into the breach as chairman and chief executive and chose to exit a matter of weeks later following the appointment of

According to Large: "One of the problems of our regulatory system is that it... was almost as if there was a deliberate tentativeness in designing the regulatory architecture. A little voice saying 'Don't alter anything else in case the need for financial services regulation goes away one day'. Well it hasn't gone away and it won't."

Hear, hear. A few leaves out of the SEC book would be no bad thing. But is anyone at the DTI, or the Treasury, listening?

Cupid's arrows prove fatal

IT would appear that Cupid, the USM quoted bridal wear enterprise, is once again involved in divorce. It was in the winter of 1992 that a boardroom row prompted the abrupt departure of Cupid's founder and chief executive, Michael Murray. A little arrow, presumably, right through the heart, Richard Lee stepped into the breach as chairman and chief executive and chose to exit a matter of weeks later following the appointment of

Richard Shaw as his successor. Come last July and Henry Lewis, a former joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, joined the board as a non-executive director. Lewis came, looked, and last month left, amid a board reshuffle which saw Simon Raynaud emerge as non-executive chairman, enabling Shaw to "devote all his time to his role as chief executive".

Shaw's marriage to Cupid now looks set to dissolve, the quaint message from his colleagues being that he has been "temporarily requested not to take any executive actions". Instead, he is "in discussions" with the company — probably about severance terms.

Cupid's acquisitive expansion has consistently brought tears. The £2.5 million purchase of Pronuptia from Stenhouse Western in 1990 being followed by the acquisition of Youngs Formal Wear for £1.65 million. A £2.68 million rights issue in the summer of 1992 was followed by a £1.25 million cash call in the spring of 1993. Shaw's plan being to further diversify into lingerie.

In the wake of an upsurge in 1992-4 mid-year losses from £18,000 to £456,000, yesterday brought news that a "further equity fund-raising" will be required. Unsurprisingly, the shares at 10p, remain distinctly unloved.

BBA Group to cut 2,000 more jobs

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

BBA Group, the automotive to aviation components concern that shed more than 1,000 jobs last year, is to cut a further 2,000 jobs in Europe to help combat the depressed conditions in the continent's automotive industry.

The latest cuts, which represent nearly 10 per cent of the remaining workforce and are due to take place over the next two years, came as rationalisation costs of £76.8 million plunged the group into the red at the full-year stage.

The much larger than expected write-offs pushed BBA to a pre-tax loss of £12.8 million in the year to December 31, against a profit of £47.4 million in the previous 12 months. Operating profits before rationalisation costs grew marginally to £89 million (£87.3 million), on turnover of £1.42 billion (£1.32 billion).

But a 1,000 reduction in the group's workforce last year took £17.1 million in exceptional rationalisation costs, while a further £59.7 million has been set aside for continuing cutbacks. Employee numbers stood at about 20,700 at the year end. Most of the new job cuts will be in mainland Europe, with Germany hardest hit. BBA's UK aviation operations are also likely to suffer cuts.

Roberto Quarta, BBA's new chief executive, has wasted no time in making his mark since joining from BTR last November. Mr Quarta said the group is forced to shrink the size of its business in line with the reduction in demand, being experienced in its markets.

The main problem last year was the recession in the European car industry, increased car sales in the UK did little to offset substantially reduced



European demand and resulting depressed margins. "It is imperative that the process of demanning continues," said Vanni Treves, chairman of the West Yorkshire company.

The cost benefits from the latest wave of rationalisation are expected to flow through from next year, Mr Treves said. "Looking forward, we expect no favours from 1994. The recovery, where it is apparent, remains extremely fragile and we anticipate no

Lloyds Chemists gets tonic from flu

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE earlier than usual flu outbreak last autumn helped to lift by 16 per cent the interim profits of Lloyds Chemists, Britain's second-largest pharmaceuticals retailer after Boots.

Pre-tax profits rose from £22.6 million to £26.2 million for the half year to December 31 on turnover up by 17 per cent, from £395 million to £460 million. The interim dividend rises by 35 per cent, from 2p to 2.7p. Allen Lloyd, chairman, said that the rise reflected his "continuing confidence" in the business and the policy of bringing dividend cover, currently 5.5 times, nearer to the store sector average of 2.2 times.

Retail sales at the company's 1,485 stores rose by 8 per cent, to £307 million (£284 million). Like-for-like sales rose by 9 per cent in the chemist division, 1 per cent in the Supersave Drugstores and 3 per cent in the Holland & Barrett health food chain.

Mr Lloyd said that the company had avoided tactical price wars between Boots and Kingfisher's Superdrug, choosing to protect margins instead. However, general competitive pressure meant that prices had been stable. Retail margins grew from 7.6 per cent to 8 per cent, thanks to expansion of electronic point of sale (EPOS) equipment and enhanced buying power.

Mr Lloyd said future growth would be organic, but smaller chemist shops would still be bought.

Resurgent IMI starts talks on acquisitions

BY SARAH BAGNALL

IMI, the Birmingham-based engineering group, is looking for acquisitions to expand its core activities and is in discussions over two possible deals.

Gary Allen, the chief executive, said: "We are very keen to make acquisitions to broaden our geographical spread. They are likely to be in fluid power or special engineering because we already have very strong market positions in the building products and drinks dispense markets."

IMI increased profits in three of these four core businesses, helping to lift pre-tax profits for the group as a whole by £2.2 million, to £70.2 million, in 1993. The profit was struck after a £5.9 million exceptional charge relating to the loss on the sale of Brook Street Computers. This was partly offset by a £4.4 million profit arising from a switch to

equity accounting for IMI's 30 per cent holding in International Radiator Services.

The final dividend was held at 5.8p a share, making an unchanged total for the year of 10p. Mr Allen said the board wanted to see dividend cover rise from the year-end level of 1.4 times to nearer double before the dividend was increased. However, he said: "We would like to improve the dividend as soon as possible but we would have to be confident about future prospects to raise it when cover was less than two times. Confidence is returning and if it continues throughout 1994, we will have considered the situation very carefully." The shares rose 7p to 347p.

The rise in profits reflected recent restructurings. Building products lifted operating profits by £5.2 million, to £27.6

million, on the back of a £10 million increase in turnover to £306 million. The drinks dispense business contribution to profits rose by £1.4 million, to £30 million while special engineering lifted profits by £3.9 million, to £15.9 million.

Mr Allen said the benefits of restructuring in the fluid power operation, the latest division to be overhauled, were still to feed through. The business saw profits fall by £200,000, to £16.7 million.

Computing activities had a poor year, incurring a £4.5 million loss against profits of £2.5 million previously. Mr Allen said: "In five years' time, I doubt that the computing activities will be part of IMI. But in the short-term, we haven't got a 'for sale' sign over the door."

Details due on Resort valuation

BY OUR CITY STAFF

RESORT Hotels, whose shares were suspended last July when independent accountants were called in to investigate "financing and reporting issues", will today disclose how severely the company's balance sheet has been damaged by the sharp decline in the value of its hotel estate.

Shareholders will get their first significant insight into the company's tangled finances in more than nine months when Resort's makeshift board reports much-delayed preliminary results for the financial year to the end of April 1993.

The results will be accompanied by a revaluation of Resort's hotels to take into account the deterioration in the property market, raising fears about the Brighton-based company's ability to support borrowings in excess of £50 million.

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8th March, 1994

Profits leap at Close Brothers

BY PATRICIA TEEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A £7 MILLION contribution from Winterflood Securities, the smaller company market-maker, helped Close Brothers, the merchant bank, to lift half-year pre-tax profits 147 per cent to £16.7 million.

The dividend for the half year to January 31 rises 56 per cent to 5p. Earnings per share were up from 11.9p to 22.2p.

Rod Kent, the managing director, said remaining profits came, in broadly equal proportions, from merchant banking, including investment management. Prompt, which finances insurance premiums, credit management and asset finance.

Close bought Winterflood from Union, the former Union Discount, for £19 million in April last year. After the strong figures and Close's plans for a one-for-one capitalisation issue, the shares rose 83p to 52p.

The issue will be subject to shareholder approval at an extraordinary meeting on March 31. Hugh Ashton, chairman, said all the main operations had made a strong start to the second half of the year and the group's outlook continues to be bright.

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Squeezed up in thin trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 28. Dealings end March 11. Settlement day March 12. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1993/94 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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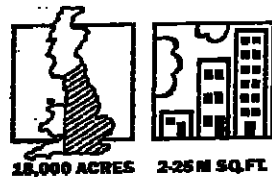
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Pain



OPERA page 36
John Hudson hits the heights as Bizet's Pearl Fishers comes back to the Coliseum

ARTS

POP page 37
Alone at the piano, Tori Amos treats her audience to glimpses of a personal purgatory



The act of applying pigment to a flat surface continues to fascinate today's artists, writes **Richard Cork**

Painting is back in the picture

At many explosive points in the 20th century, the death of painting has been gleefully announced by artists eager to promote their alternative strategies. But its funeral has never taken place. The act of applying coloured pigment to a flat surface still stubbornly continues. Far from fading into a decline, painters even have a habit of flourishing anew in old age. And younger adherents keep on coming, in defiance of every millennial edict about art's need to harness the dubious resources of computerland.

In my view, painters today benefit from the lack of a fashionable handwagon. There was a time, in the early 1980s, when a hectic onrush of neo-expressionism suddenly became promoted. But the hype soon backfired. The triumphant "New Spirit in Painting" faltered when rhetorical bluster and grandiosity marred too many megacanvas. Subsequent attempts to launch a revival of hard-edge abstraction never achieved lift-off: who now remembers so-called "Neo-Geo"? So I was sceptical when the Hayward Gallery announced its intention to mount an international survey of painting today.

Would we be confronted with yet another puffed-up attempt to maintain, in the teeth of all the evidence, that painters were approaching the century's end with victory glinting in their eyes? Such an inflated notion disregards the fact that art now benefits from an exceptionally catholic range of possible approaches. To exchange this breadth for a narrow adherence to painting alone would indeed be a limiting, dogmatic manoeuvre.

Happily, the Hayward's offering suffers from no such delusions. Its main title, "Unbound", might suggest a clarion-call. But the subtitle, "Possibilities in Painting", indicates a more modest and open attitude. The painter and critic Adrian Searle, who selected the show with Greg Hilly, declares in his sprightly catalogue essay that people who treat painting "as an old-time religion" and they are endemic, especially in Britain, will find little comfort here. This is not a return to order but a breaking of bounds.

Far from heralding the advent of yet another movement of style, Searle shies away from making "premature claims to greatness". He is wise to do so, but the survey does have a loose-limbed coherence of its own. While this feisty selection roams widely in age, nationality and ways of working, a consistent temper nevertheless emerges.

Take Jonathan Lasker, whose jumbo-size *Public Love* shouts out at you across the immensity of the first gallery. Its proportions suggest that the New York-based artist is measuring himself against the Abstract Expressionists. But instead of striving for Rothko's sublime heights, Lasker includes passages based brazenly on doodling and scrawl. By enlarging his preliminary



Three works included in the Hayward Gallery's survey of current painting: Jonathan Lasker's *Public Love*, 1990 (top); Peter Doig's *Pond Life*, 1993 (left); Paula Rego's *The Artist in her Studio*, 1993 (right)

scribbles to titanic dimensions, and using thick ropes of paint, he somehow invests the most inconsequential marks with unexpected grandeur. The scale of skyscrapers is conveyed in slabs of grid-like yellow pigment, and big-city clangour evoked by the rasping orange ground.

Lasker's other exhibits are far less impressive, but the guinness of *Public Love* helps to prepare us for the most disconcerting work on view. Jessica Stockholder, another ebullient New Yorker, punches through the Hayward's pristine white partitions to disclose the stair-rail hidden behind. She revels in subverting the standardised purity of museum display. For the gash is carried through to the next room, where Stockholder uses it as a doorway to let in a jumble of garish-coloured materials and found objects. Is it painting, or installation art run riot? Well, Stockholder does use pigment, but she enjoys extending the limits of painting far beyond the canvas. *Fat Form and Hairy runs* the title of her contribution, summing up the belligerence and cheeky humour which gives the work its flamboyant sting.

"Unbound" knows how to paint its participants, and Stockholder chimes well with Fiona Rae nearby. While adhering to the convention of a canvas-on-a-wall, Rae handles her brushes with much of Stockholder's swinging force. Or rather, she used to. The earliest painting is wilder in handling than Rae's recent purple and orange triptych. Here, the arrival of more sumptuous colour is accompanied by a crisper, neater definition of form. I hope Rae is not losing her admirably un-English lack of inhibition as she moves towards a more imposing and weighty way of painting.

So far, the show contains scant evidence of an interest in the figurative tradition. Even the oldest artist here, the 64-year-old Belgian Raoul De Keyser, gives only tantalising hints of his work's origin in observed reality. Sometimes the recurrent oblongs in his deceptively unassuming pictures suggest windows, and Matisse's fascination around 1914 with the interplay between outdoor views and interior space. In one picture he indicates clouds punctuating a

● VERTICAL POEMS: As a painter as well as a dealer in antique rugs, Christopher Farr began to wonder whether his twin interests could not be creatively combined, and began by asking artists like Bill Jacklin and Gillian Ayres to make designs for weaving by traditional craftsmen in Turkey. He also arranged rug-designing projects with students at the Royal College. And now comes Josef Herman, with a group of vibrant abstract designs far removed from the Welsh miners and

Spanish peasants most normally associated with him. The artists are required to bear the possibilities and limitations of the medium in mind; here, the results are breathtaking. Christopher Farr, 115 Regent's Park Road, NW1 (071-916 7690), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11 am-5 pm, until March 31.

● MASTERS OF DESIGN: Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious almost go out of their way to advertise their taste for English odd-

ity, their relish for the nooks and crannies of English life, the Staffordshire pottery and the village store. Paul Nash, for all his sophistication and his cosmopolitan connections with international Surrealism shared their home-grown taste for nonsense. All three not only know their personal landscape, but know consummately how to fix it on paper for all to see.

Fine Arts Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 5116), Mon-Fri 9.30 am-5.30 pm, until March 25.

clear sky, only to cancel the illusion with a vertical smear of crimson.

While the tension between extreme abstraction and traces of the visible world is kept alive in De Keyser's quiet work, younger painters often prove more willing to admit representational references. But they reserve the right to deploy irony, as though to underscore the impossibility of using figurative language in a direct, uncomplicated man-

ner. Another Belgian, Luc Tuymans, even mixes a cracking agent with his paint. It gives the pictures a prematurely aged appearance, suggesting a desire to mock his own fondness for the art of the past.

As for the outrageous Juan Davila, a Chilean who has lived in Australia for 20 years, his huge wall-work is riddled with subversive tactics. Noble mountains rear, but then are undermined by an inset panel

filled with comic-strip smuttness. Delicate brushwork alternates with straggling and splashed areas, or images as garish as a kitsch restaurant mural.

Anyone hung near this brash, grating artist is liable to look startled. Only Peter Doig survives his proximity to Davila with robustness. All his paintings contain references to his childhood surroundings in Canada. But Doig's reliance

on representation is a complex, eclectic affair. Munch-like trees alternate with free-wheeling skeins of Pollockesque paint in the busy, worried surface of *Pond Life*. Even the quietest and most beguiling of his exhibits, *Window Pane*, contains many different kinds of mark-making within its overall winter stillness.

The decision to include Doig, who was awarded a well-deserved first prize at the last John Moores Liverpool Exhibition, proves that "Unbound" is not afraid of painters who leave abstraction far behind. But the strain of sadness in Doig's work might partly reflect an awareness of how difficult it is to use representation in a new way.

"Belatedness, the sense of coming after everything has already been done, can lead to a melancholic sense of exhaustion," writes Searle, before adding: "but is painting exhausted?"

The answer, according to this welcome show at least, is that the best hope lies in diversity. I share this belief, and understand exactly why one upstairs room juxtaposes Paula Rego with Zedee Jones. In technique and out-

look alike, they could hardly be more removed from each other. The 59-year-old Rego belongs ever more squarely within the mainstream tradition of European figure painting. Although sometimes cluttered to a fault, compared with the arresting simplicity of her work in the late 1980s, Rego's paintings continue to draw potent stimulus from the wealth of imagery crowding a canvas called *The Artist in her Studio*.

Rego is a dreamer, unafraid to immerse herself in childhood stories, whereas the 24-year-old Jones obliterates all trace of narrative in his uncompromising work. His acute deafness may help to account for the sensation, within the heaped layers of these thick, grey pictures, of smothering. But their strange luminosity is not despondent; and between the polar extremes of Jones and Rego, painting in the 1990s has plenty of freedom to confound anyone who still insists on consigning it to a premature grave.

● Unbound: Possibilities in Painting at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) until May 30

DANCE: John Percival asks why three highly subsidised companies are all staging the same Tchaikovsky ballet

Sleeping sickness strikes

Do we need three new productions of *The Sleeping Beauty* within six months? That is what we are buying ourselves this season for use by three subsidised companies. English National Ballet premiered one in October; the Scottish Ballet follows this Thursday, and the Royal Ballet next month during an American tour (it will not come to Covent Garden until the autumn).

All three companies can make a case for their needs. Scottish Ballet's argument is probably the strongest because it has never before danced the work, and funding restrictions prevent English companies from venturing north. Besides, Galina Samsova as artistic director considers that this grandest of old classics is "just the technical and artistic challenge" which her dancers need.

ENB had a perfectly good production by Nureyev and Georgiadis, but Peter Schaufuss as director during the 1980s decided to sell it off. The company has been saving up for a

replacement, and reckons it had to go ahead while it could. The Royal Ballet's latest staging was never satisfactory and now they have sold the decors to the Boston Ballet to make way for a new one.

But why must all three present the work at the same time, especially as *Sleeping Beauty* has not been in short supply lately? Last summer the Birmingham Royal Ballet and Maryinsky versions overlapped in London, and a Moscow version has since toured Britain.

Nor are such clashes uncommon. Last year everyone was giving *Romeo and Juliet* at about the same time; before that, multiple productions of *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* were in furious competition. The Arts Council has a national dance co-ordinating committee specifically to

avoid potential clashes. All the companies attend, and John Drummond is the independent chairman — a formidable man well known for expressing himself clearly. But the committee can only urge, not compel.

The Arts Council itself is in a stronger position. Companies must submit plans before the grant is decided. The situation is complicated by the fact that Scotland is separately funded, but consultation and co-ordination cannot be impossible. The real inhibiting factor is the same as the initial cause of the clashes: a fear that audiences will not buy seats unless offered the best-known ballets. And no company today can afford to play to poor houses.

On the other hand, for everyone to choose the same work at once is counter-productive. Many spectators

who would be willing to see several companies during the year (sometimes travelling long distances to do so) are put off by the lack of variety.

There is no quick, easy solution. But that is no excuse for just drifting on. The underlying factor is that managements have drifted into giving more and more of their performing time to just a few ballets, venturing only timidly outside the limited number of long works by Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev.

In the days when ENB (at that time called Festival Ballet) was a private unsubsidised venture, it had audiences clamouring for one-act works from the old Ballets Russes repertoire — many of them never seen nowadays. The Royal Ballet successfully ran a more varied repertoire; Scottish Ballet proved that the choreography

of the old Danish master Bournonville suited British dancers well.

We are told that audiences will no longer support a more adventurous repertoire. If true, this is because the wrong expectations have been built up. You need look no further than Paris for evidence that consistently offering varied programmes of good quality can bring in the crowds.

The Royal Danish Ballet, with its Bournonville festivals as well as its standard repertoire by him, is an example of what our Royal Ballet has shamefully failed to do in getting value from its unique heritage of ballets by Frederick Ashton. New York City Ballet likewise knows the value of its Balanchine inheritance.

What we need are artistic directors with a wider vision, managements prepared to back them, and a more imaginative sales drive. Journalists have their part to play, too, in changing public attitudes. Speaking for myself, that would be a pleasure — but will we be given the chance?



English National Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*, premiered last October: the first of three Beauties in six months

revival of Bizet's opera
Ceylon



of Zurga and Nadir at the Coliseum

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Latest Gems is no great shakes

THEATRE: Manchester City of Drama stages premieres of two plays with political points to make. Benedict Nightingale knows which he prefers

In Pam Gems's new play, *Deborah's Daughter* (Liberty Theatre), one of the lesser characters, an upper-class twit, blunders about dropping malapropisms. He talks of St Peter going blind on the road to Cairo, and confuses Beau Brummel with Beau Geste. But as the play lurches disappointingly along, you begin to wonder if he is aping his author. Hasn't she got Mars muddled up with Cupid or, to update the parallels a bit, Garibaldi with Valentino?

After all, you would think that overthrowing a corrupt king, toppling his police-state apparatus, and taking over an entire north African country would be something of a full-time job. Yet Hassan, the military man colonel who has undertaken these tasks, still has the leisure energetically to pursue Deborah, philanthropic widow of an oil-company tycoon.

In between organising attacks on the local Winter Palace, he may be found kissing her toes and spouting desert-shaikh rhetoric: "What I love is your soul. Your soul is like a beautiful flower, fertile, capable of turning the world into a garden."

On second thoughts, let me not be offensive to desert shaikhs, most of whom surely employ their tongues more judiciously. Nor, I suspect, do they thrust their faces at women who attract them in quite the breathy, ogling manner Raad Rawi's Hassan persistently adopts. Anna Carteret's Deborah recalls, as at one of those Feydeau characters who combine extreme short-sightedness with extreme haughtiness, And, really, no wonder.

As the author of *Plaf, Camille* and *Queen Christina*, Gems has proved herself a dramatist to respect. But this is not the first of her plays — remember *Aunt Mary*? — that has left me wondering if she isn't more adept at borrowing stories than inventing them. It is remarkably difficult to believe in *Deborah's Daughter*; and not only when Arabian Nights pillow talk is on the agenda.

There is, for instance, a skirmish, admittedly rather feebly evoked in Sue Dunderdale's production, between Hassan's rebels and government troops. And how is it stopped? Why, by Carteret standing up amid the gunfire and loudly telling everyone to quit shooting.

Well, well. Perhaps one of General Rose's military options in Bosnia should be to parachute in glamorous actresses to harangue the Serbs in governessy voices. Or perhaps it is just that Gems has rather a sketchy idea of what coups, battles and war are like.

But then such things don't seem vastly to concern her. They are

subsidiary to the story of Deborah, who sacrificed a brilliant career as a scientist to support her husband and, now he is dead, spends most of her time running an organic farm in England.

"She cracked the code of life itself and then walked away," explains Deborah's mum (Jane Freeman), a merry old soul prone to saying things like "topping" and "good-on", and who somehow gets away with tipping endless whisky in an Islamic country. "Why?" asks Deborah's footloose daughter (Mia Fothergill). "Because she's female." Is the reply.

There we have it. Like various other of Gems's protagonists, Deborah is struggling to find and fulfil herself in a male world and, like them, has tough choices to make. Should she flounce back home in order to continue growing daffodils, or should she remain with chief minister Hassan who, again in defiance of Islamic probability, wants to make her his scientific adviser as well as his bedfellow? Should she stick with female convention or opt for unconventional feminism? Alas, her predicament does not seem real enough for the answer to matter.

After *Deborah's Daughter* it is a relief to turn to a play in which the personal and the public both have weight and are kept in a better balance. But then almost anyone's journey would seem trivial beside that of Thomas Otway's Jaffier in *Venice Preserved*.

Poor chap, he is reduced to penury by his bride's vindictive father, a Venetian senator; gets hired into joining a revolutionary uprising by his best friend, Pierre, hands over his wife, Belvidera, as surety to the rebel chief, Renault, who promptly tries to seduce her; is persuaded by her to betray his comrades; quarrels with Pierre, is reconciled with him, and ends up killing him and himself.

Back in 1681, Otway subtitled the play "a plot discovered", and probably had the Titus Oates fiasco in mind when he wrote it. But despite that, and despite Gregory Hersov's decision to present it as a sombre Victorian melodrama, the piece has legs now.

We are still familiar with radical pique, the kind that transforms a personal grudge into a universal crusade. We have also heard a lot from the likes of Renault, who is happy to see the canals brimming with the corpses of senators, their wives and children, and the friends of their friends of their friends, convinced as he is that the result of all this carnage will be what he calls "liberty".

Otway's restless, wayward conspirators have something in common with their counterparts in Julius Caesar, and he himself isn't altogether unworthy of the comparisons with the Bard that have been tossed his way. His language is plainer but still sinewy, his

characterisation less textured but colourful.

In the hysterically zigzagging Jaffier and the fiercely single-minded Pierre he created roles strong enough to have attracted major actors: Gielgud and Scofield in the Brook production of 1953, Pennington and McKellen for Peter Gill in 1984.

At the Royal Exchange, Hersov's revival is brisk and lucid without being especially exciting. The emotional bond between Jonathan Cullen's harried, wimpish Jaffier and George Anton's Pierre, a glowering chieftain wandered in from *Macbeth*, is not as adhesive as the plot requires.

Nor does either man match the

intensity of Helen McCrory's Belvidera, walling and drooling in what turns out to be terminal despair — or, for that matter, the finesse of David Ryall as the masochist senator, Antonio.

Otway supposedly based Antonio on the Earl of Shaftesbury, but the character could as easily have come nudging and winking out of yesterday's tabloids. Nor is it difficult to imagine one of our senators swapping baby-talk ("Nacky, nacky, purree tuzzy, you fubs you") with a prostitute, then begging her to bear him.

It is quite impossible to imagine him greeting a thwack in the groin with a gurgle of: "Now thou art too loving?" Well, maybe.



Peter Yapp, Anna Carteret and Jane Freeman in an emotional scene from Pam Gems's disappointing new play, *Deborah's Daughter*

David Ryall and Helen McCrory in an updated *Venice Preserved*

characterisation less textured but colourful.

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TELEVISION: An old favourite returns, ploddingly

A case of 221b-minus I'm afraid, Holmes



Peter Wyngarde and Jeremy Brett clash wits in *The Adventure of the Three Gables*

On this stage, as a reward for long devotion. But there is little hope in the weeks ahead. As a lover of the series, I can appreciate the frustrations the original readers felt, at the tail end of an era, pining for the great days before Inspector Lestrade received his pension

— *A Scandal in Bohemia!* *Silver Blaze!* *The Speckled Band!* "So, all right then," one asks, dutifully, "why should Sherlock Holmes steer clear of Harrow?" *The Three Gables* concerned a mature Spanish drop-dead beauty who dis-

cards lovers so brutally they literally drop dead. Young, long-haired Douglas Maberley has obligingly expired, in a hollow-eyed fever, but not before scribbling a roman-a-clef about his lady's cruelty (novels took less time to write in those days).

Intent on marrying a pretty aristocratic teenager, and afraid of scandal, the lady attempts to retrieve Maberley's manuscript from his twinkle-bellied grand-

ma, who gets suspicious — and calls for Sherlock Holmes — when a bogus house agent offers to purchase the Three Gables and its entire contents, provided she leave quietly without removing a spoon or a dishcloth.

In the original story, the defenceless woman is chloroformed in Holmes's nocturnal absence; in the adaptation, Watson stands guard with his revolver but is overpowered by thugs. Meanwhile, Brett is wildly brilliant ("He's broken our window!" he barks delightedly after the boxer's visit, and tosses an apple outside), gets his image reflected and overlaid in a lot of windows, pictures and mirrors, and consults Peter Wyngarde as a sinister old gossip queen. (The arty effect with the glass, incidentally, went too far.)

Whose heart is still in this enterprise, however? Not Conan Doyle's, not Holmes's. Since it has reached the point where we watch merely because we are fans of the way Brett can give spin to such lines such as, "We could never prove it. I'm leaving for Cricklewood!" perhaps it is time to make up some new stories.

I regret to say that, so long as Brett was in it, *The Adventure of the Successful Selfridges Food Hall Expedition* would probably suit me perfectly well.

LYNNE TRUSS

SPANISH ARTS FESTIVAL: new music premiered

Words without meaning

A SERIES of four concerts of contemporary Spanish music, under the heading *Musica de Nuestro Tiempo*, began at the Almeida Theatre in Islington on Sunday night with a programme given by Music Projects. Three vocal pieces were commissioned from younger composers by the Spanish Arts Festival and given their world premiere.

That it turned out to be such a dismal evening was certainly not the fault of the performers, who all played, sang and conducted (Stefan Asbury and Roger Heaton in the latter role) admirably. The tediousness of the programme was due rather to the uninspiring conceptions of each of the commissions and to the needless obfuscation with which they were presented. Each of the works was sung in Spanish, with no translation provided and only the most elliptical of summaries in the programme.

Alfredo Aracil's scena *Proserpio* (text by José Sanchis Sinistera) represents an artist figure alone on a symbolic island. His existence is projected on to the musicians, who become in turn Ariel, Caliban and Miranda.

This much we were told: for the rest, which included long, spoken monologues by the central character (portrayed by Maxwell Hutchinson) interspersed with choral commentaries in close harmony from a

trio of "madrigalistas" (Sarah Leonard, Nicholas Clapton and Andrew Murgatroyd), it was anybody's guess.

A pair of clarinets squeaked like flutes as the tension rose; next they played something like a chorale with the horn as Prospero donned a cloak; then they screamed again in a nightmare Expressionist sequence (the title was indeed "full of noises").

Why it could not have been rendered in the native tongue of the audience and performers is beyond me: *The Tempest* hardly depends on the Spanish language for its natural colouring. The experience might then have been less frustrating, but probably little more satisfying. Neither the musical content nor the semi-staging had anything to recommend them.

As to *Three Questions* by

MANUEL HIDALGO

On the whole, though, it had been something of an inauspicious start to what could be an important series.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ROCK CONCERT

A cute depression

Tori Amos
Her Majesty's, SW1

PERCHED on her piano stool, torso twisted, legs apart and three o'clock to the audience, Tori Amos's very body language suggested we might be in for a harrowing trip. And we were. Amos's live appearances have rarely been noted for their end-of-pier appeal, but on Sunday night she seemed hell-bent on racking the emotions.

Swathed in deep blue light and a dense fog of dry ice, the American songsmith opened her case with a funeral treatment of "Home On The Range", which served as a further statement of tortuous intent.

unaccompanied "Me And A Gun", an autobiographical account of rape ("I sang 'Holy Holy', as he buttoned down his pants"). Coming from a performer who has probably shared this memory a thousand times in her life, it was very convincing. Several in the audience cried.

Songs such as "Pretty Good Year", "Leather" and her most recent hit "Cornflake Girl" were, despite their overwrought renderings, highly effective. Similarly, her deconstruction of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" had its thought-provoking moments.

But for the most part she mistook self-obsession for sensitivity and cod intensity for instinct. Why deliver a lyric straight and let the listeners make up their own minds when you can force the sentiment down their throats?

Encoring with a cover of Leonard Cohen's "Famous Blue Raincoat" was a mistake. A model of coolly concise songwriting, Cohen's evocative composition puts Amos's entire career into cruel perspective.

ADRIAN DEEVOY



Tori Amos shares her pain with the paying punters

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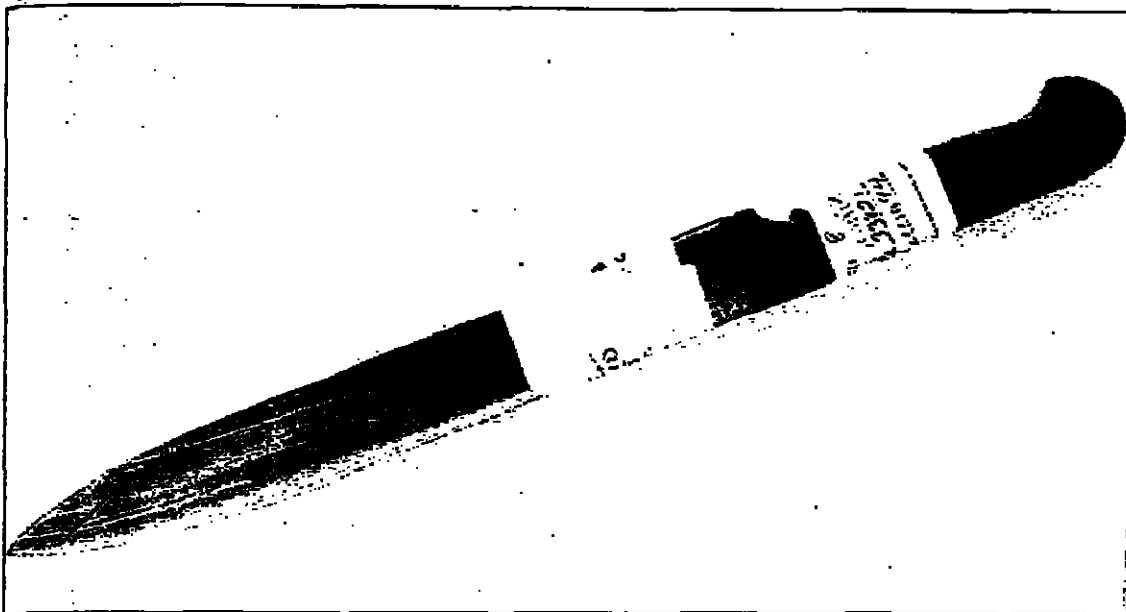
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Are they really mad or just bad?



Lorena Bobbitt spent five weeks in a mental hospital after being acquitted, by reason of insanity, of malicious wounding after cutting off her husband's penis with this knife

Exclude psychiatric evidence from the courtroom? The proposal may seem revolutionary but the results in some recent American cases are pointing to just that. In the high profile Bobbitt and Menendez cases, the issue was not "what motivated the defendant to do something so monstrous that the act can be explained only by an expert in the behavioural sciences?"

There has always been a tension between the legal system and the behavioural sciences. In both disciplines, it is important to get the facts. Lawyers pride themselves on how well they do this. They engage in the time-honoured techniques of examination and cross-examination. Psychiatrists tend to assume the facts as given by their patients, even though the truth may affect the diagnosis and eventual treatment. The psychiatrist, however, is unlikely to challenge the patient's statement the way a lawyer would.

The principle that an insane person cannot be held responsible for criminal acts would appear to be unexceptionable. The problem, however, arises where the judge and jury must apply arcane definitions of insanity, rely on psychiatric testimony and come to a conclusion of guilt or innocence based on psychiatric theories about which even experts disagree.

Jurors should pay less attention to evidence from the psychiatric experts and more to their own common sense, James D. Zirin says

agree. For example, in the Menendez case, the prosecution contended that two American brothers, ages 26 and 23, murdered their wealthy parents in cold blood to acquire a multi-million dollar inheritance, part of which they dissipated in a spending spree immediately after the murders; that they went to elaborate lengths to conceal their complicity in the crime, arranging alibis and destroying evidence; and admitting the deed only after a woman a year later told police she overheard them confess to their psychiatrist.

The defence painted a bizarre portrait of two boys who acted in fear after being subjected to an unspeakable pattern of sexual abuse over many years. The defence argued that the brothers, who wore crew-necked sweaters throughout the trial, and were repeatedly referred to by their lawyers as "the boys", were either justified, or else should be excused from legal responsibility. A string of child abuse experts—a psychologist, a psychiatrist and professors in nursing, psychology and social work—supported the defence position.

The jury was obviously so baffled by the conflicting values of law and psychiatry that it could not agree on a

verdict. Interestingly, the Menendez prosecution called no psychiatric experts, saying it would only lend credence to "psychobabble". Instead, the prosecutors relied on the conventional approach of attacking the credibility of the defence case and claiming that the allegation of abuse was a recent fabrication.

Likewise, in the Bobbitt case, also in America, the defence convinced the Virginia jury that Lorena Bobbitt had been repeatedly raped and abused by her husband John, and that she had cut off his penis by reason of an "irresistible impulse"—an act of temporary insanity. As one juror put it: "We realised that this was not a person who was acting in a sane manner... In a way, she went after what threatened her most." The juror appears to have ignored the testimony of one of Mrs Bobbitt's female co-workers that a month before the incident the defendant had confided in her that if her husband looked at another woman again, she would cut his penis off. Mr Bobbitt was acquitted of raping his wife in an earlier trial. Mrs Bobbitt's jury was asked to consider psychiatric testimony that there were temporary but irresistible psychological impulses



that motivated the defendant to maim her husband. The jury agreed. Mrs Bobbitt has undergone psychotherapy in a hospital for a month and is now talking to Hollywood producers about a film.

Again, in suburban Rye, New York, a 26-year-old nanny was recently sentenced to a prison term of 8-25 years for brutally killing a ten-month-old baby in her care. While she told the sentencing court she was "wholeheartedly sorry" about the incident, the nanny claimed she was not the "cold heartless murderer" portrayed by the victim's parents.

Her lawyers contended that psychiatrists had determined that the nanny suffers from "adult attention deficit disorder" which leads to poor job performance and outbursts of impulsive behaviour. The baby's parents disputed the psychiatric testimony, charging that the nanny had chosen the "disease of the Nineties" as a way of dodging responsibility.

The traditional role that the psychiatrist plays in the courtroom is that of expert witness. Courts typically permit a qualified expert to testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if

scientific, technical or other specialised knowledge will help the jury to understand the evidence. All this means is that, if the defendant can afford it, a "hired gun" may be engaged to bring home the case to the jury in the form of an expert opinion. Expert testimony has also been greeted with some scepticism. Trial judges have called experts the "lowest thing known to the law". And the courts have questioned whether expert testimony often misleads and confuses juries. This would be particularly true of psychiatric evidence, which is often incomprehensible.

So the question is: why do we allow psychiatric testimony in the courtroom at all? The reason is similar to that given for the jury system itself. There is no better way of trying to understand the human state of mind. The Bobbitt and Menendez juries, and the judge in the nanny case, may well have been bamboozled by the evidence of highly paid psychiatrists who were willing to rationalise criminal conduct as a disorder which must be treated rather than punished, forgetting that the values of "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not maim" have existed among civilised people for over 5,000 years.

Perhaps the answer is to ask jurors to use common sense and weigh the evidence with a sense of disbelief.

● The author is a partner in Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.

Let market men track the crooks

The Stock Exchange is best equipped to catch and indict insider dealers

New laws aimed at tackling insider dealing have just come into force. The laws, largely prompted by Europe, are contained in the Criminal Justice Act 1993 (CJA) which replaces the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985. The CJA was enacted after a far from public consultation process and, even now, it remains difficult to obtain the consultative papers. Insider dealing remains a criminal offence prosecuted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), but many in the City are concerned that this arrangement has not been effective so far.

Insider dealers profit from the use of price-sensitive securities information: for example, by selling shares shortly before a company issues a profits warning which would cut their value. Those involved are usually people connected with a company.

What is less well known is that it became a criminal offence only in 1980. Also, the legislation prohibiting it has not been enforced subsequently with any great success. Since 1980, 104 cases are said to have been reported to the DTI by the Stock Exchange Surveillance Unit, which maintains a computer vigil over unusual share transactions. Yet only 50 have resulted in prosecutions and, significantly, only 22 have resulted in convictions. Not for nothing has insider dealing been called "the sliver of soap in the City's bathwater".

The courts have not helped. Deterrent sentences have not always been imposed on convicted insiders. Two accountants were convicted recently but were fined less than the reported profits of their dealing. Although they may not find City employment again, such fines seem lenient, in the same way that the sentencing of Roger Levitt, convicted of fraudulent trading, to community service seemed lenient compared to the imprisonment of a pregnant woman in the same week for failing to

pay her television licence. But what should be done?

In the interests of market egalitarianism, most accept that insider dealing should remain a criminal offence. Now, however, is the time to centralise its regulation in the UK. At the moment, the Stock Exchange maintains an effective monitoring role over securities trading. Yet not many are aware that it is the Treasury which is responsible for insider-dealing "policy" issues, while it is the DTI which investigates and prosecutes the offence.

Given the few convictions so far responsibility for insider dealing should now be removed from the hands of the Civil Service and given over to professional market regulators. Assuming that the Government will ignore persuasive recent calls for an independent, centralised regulator for the securities industry, along the lines of the American Securities and Exchange Commission, those most experienced in identifying insider dealing are in the Stock Exchange.

At the moment, too many amateurish crooks are spoiling the broth. Judged on its recent discussion paper, "Regulation of the United Kingdom Equity Markets", the Securities and Investment Board seems to have had few new ideas on what should be done. That paper seeks comment from the City. The answer seems obvious.

As for insider dealing, the Stock Exchange (not the SIB) should be charged with investigating and prosecuting, as well as regulating and continuing to monitor potential insider dealing. To do so, it will need to be given the necessary independence and effective funding. Practical means could be found to thwart the activities of the many insiders who front their nefarious trade through nominee companies registered outside the UK.

GIL BRAZIER
● The author is a solicitor.

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Autocratic leanings likely to count against Illingworth



Illingworth: radical

At teatime tomorrow, English cricket will follow football in filling the post that every supporter traditionally boasts he could do much better than the man in possession, though few would genuinely care to try.

The mechanics of chairing the England cricket selectors differ in many ways from managing the national football team but what the jobs share is the inevitability of taking the blame when things go wrong. Hence the recent departures of Graham Taylor and Ted Dexter.

Football's response was to install a man of charisma, a man of the people, ignoring the darker shades of doubt raised about his character. If cricket follows suit, Raymond Illingworth will become chairman of selectors. The downward spiral of the national team has encouraged such a radical step but a combination of factors, notably the game's climate and

the conservatism of those making the decision, indicate that M.J.K. Smith will be elected.

Left to its own devices, the working party set up to consider the vacancy by the Test and County Cricket Board would probably have settled on Smith already. But in the aftermath of the Dexter regime, which the counties perceived as a dictatorship, democracy must be seen to prevail. The counties made 21 nominations and Illingworth, proposed by Yorkshire, is now offered back to them alongside the man long since identified for the job by most people in office at Lord's.

Thus, delegates at the full spring meeting of the Board, which starts at Lord's today, have been given a fascinating choice between an opinionated Yorkshireman and a taciturn midlander. Both were England captains, both have maintained links with county cricket and both are past the



ALAN LEE

Cricket Commentary

age of 60. There, the similarities end.

Public support will assuredly be for Illingworth. His playing days are more recent in the memory and his media work has given him a high profile which Smith cheerfully lacks. Illingworth is seen to have a view about everything. Paradoxically, this could count against him among those who actually have a vote.

Dexter came to the job from the tabloid media. He, like Illingworth, was an eminently quotable man, and Dexter suffered for it, every frivolous remark being solemnised and offered as the rantings of a crackpot. Illingworth may already

have offended by offering his blueprint in a newspaper column. Some will regard this merely as premature, others as electioneering.

Illingworth would require similar recompense to Dexter for giving up his media work, whereas Smith retired early on the profits from the disposal of his leisure club. The position is due to be a salaried one; the levels are open to negotiation.

Such considerations will not be ignored, but the county chairmen, on whom this decision largely rests, ought to proceed primarily on the basis of suitability for the job definition. Here, the candidature of Illingworth has undeniable qualities but one

potentially decisive debit — the prospect that his approach would produce an insoluble clash with the team manager.

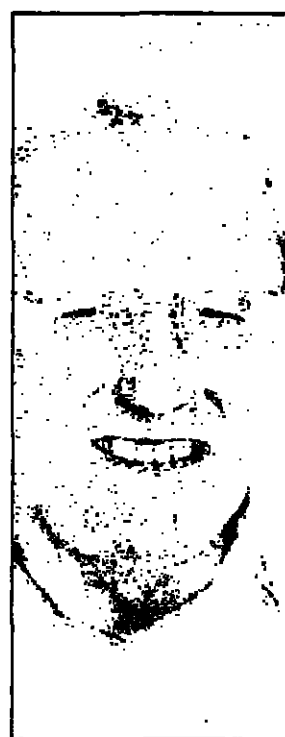
In 1986, when it was first mooted that the England team required a manager, Illingworth was one of three men interviewed. He subsequently withdrew on the grounds that the job did not offer sufficient authority. Illingworth wanted to be in total charge of the team's selection, conduct and discipline.

Now, it is the chair to which Illingworth aspires, but his expectations will not have lowered. Election would inevitably place him at odds with Keith Fletcher, who is not only a selector but responsible for the day-to-day management of the side in respects that Illingworth may be loath to delegate.

The committee system that, for better or worse, rules English cricket is another

potential hazard. Illingworth's dealings with committees, during his days as a player and county manager, were not always cordial, a measure once more of his autocratic leanings. The structure of the Board demands a chairman of selectors who sits in on diverse gatherings, fighting the corner of the national side.

Smith has years of committee experience behind him and is presently chairman of Warwickshire, familiar with the workings of Board politics. Significantly, Smith has had the chance to create a *modus operandi* with Fletcher and Michael Atherton as tour manager in the Caribbean, where he can scarcely be held responsible for the poor results. He is well aware that this will change the moment he is elected, for the new chairman is expected to lead selection issues. Smith, however, is prepared for the job and the job, I believe, has been prepared for him.



Smith: taciturn

Caution of Wessels leaves Australia improbable quest

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN JOHANNESBURG

SET 454 to win the first Test match in a minimum, weather permitting, of 133 overs, Australia were 123 for two when play ended last night. An Australia victory could be all but ruled out. Between the draw and a victory for South Africa there seemed little to choose, although if a South African were to be heard saying that, he would be thought a pessimist.

No statistic from the annals of Test cricket is more often quoted than the one that tells us that only twice has a side won a match by scoring more than 400 in a fourth innings: India, when they got 406 for four against West Indies at Port of Spain in 1975-76, and Australia, when they were set 403 in less than a day to beat England at Headingley in 1948.

When Australia set out on their attempt to achieve the feat yesterday it could certainly not be ruled out. They have plenty of stroke-making batsmen in their side and in nearly 10½ hours they had failed to bowl South Africa out, a point which said a good deal about the pitch.

South Africa would probably have settled for picking up the wickets of Hayden and Slater, two of Australia's liveli-

est customers, by the close, and this they did.

South Africa had spent the first half of the day making what they thought would be enough runs to put themselves beyond Australia's reach. To some, inevitably, Wessels seemed over-cautious with his declaration; but he was no more so, I think, than Border would have been in a similar position, or even Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards, when they commanded the best bowling attack in the game. Most captains the world over like to feel fairly sure they will not lose a match before embarking on their attempt to win it.

In the event, South Africa had added another 115 runs in 50 overs when Wessels closed their innings. Their 450 for nine was a splendid effort. By way of a curiosity, of the 31 batsmen to have been dismissed in the match so far, only six have failed to reach double figures.

Of Australia's bowlers, Warne was much the best. He bowled unchanged from one end and took three of the four South Africa wickets to fall. Peter Kirsten, Richardson and McMillan, the three he got out, all fell while sweeping. Although he made a useful 50,

Kirsten had to struggle for them. Four balls out of five McDermott made the batsmen his target, rather than the stumps.

Hughes did not bowl. Having been fined for abusive behaviour three times in his last 15 Test matches, it is widely felt here, if not in the Australia party, that it is high time he was taught a proper lesson. As it is, Hughes has earned in those 15 matches approximately £30,000, in match fees alone, while he has been fined a total of approximately £425.

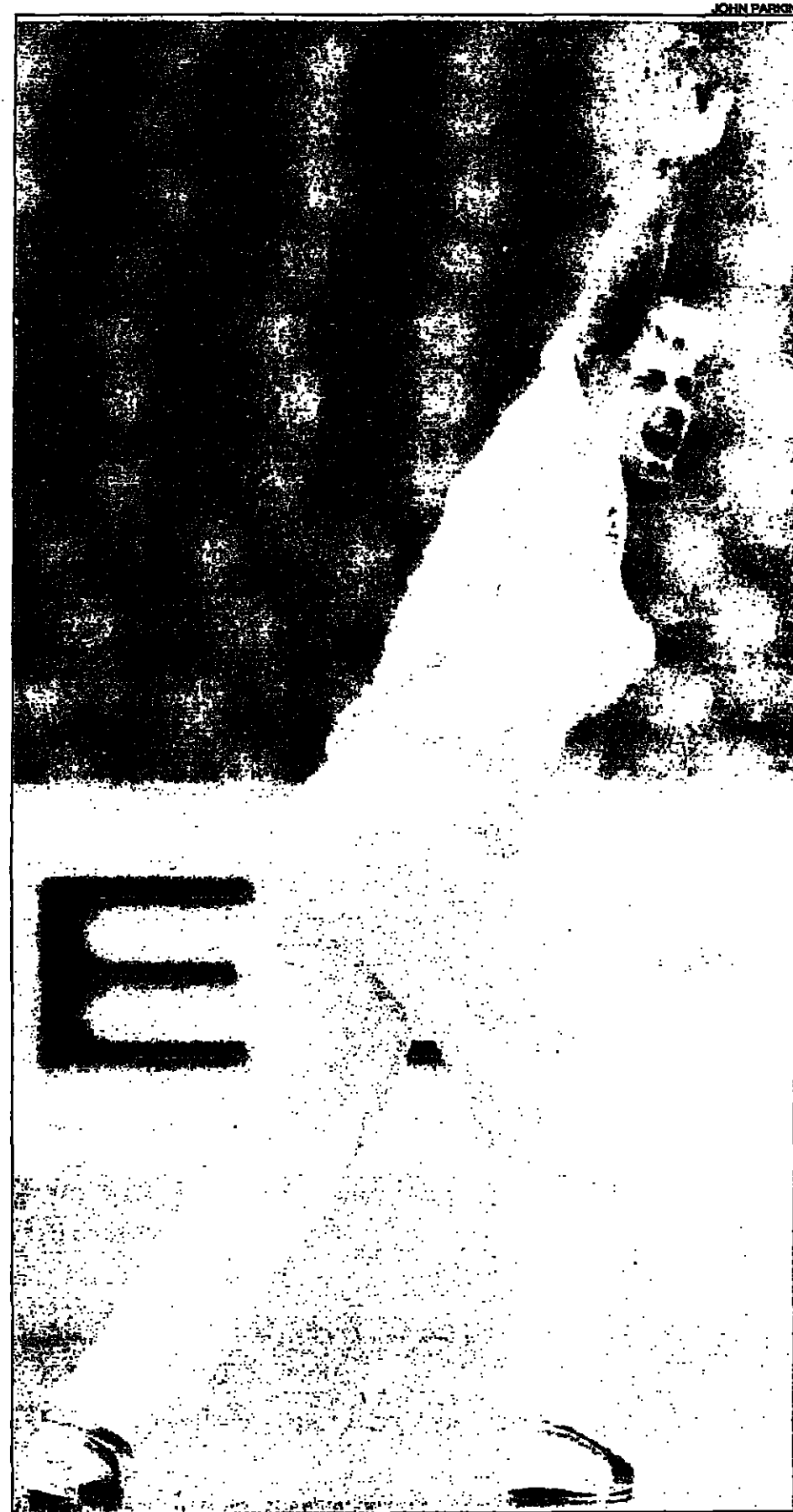
Australia began their improbable quest in the liveliest temperature for batting and, although Hayden played on to de Villiers in the sixth over, they raced to 49 in ten overs before tea to give them hope of pulling off an achievement for the record-books.

When another ten came in the first over afterwards, with Slater setting the ground alight, they must have begun to think of having 170 or 180 on the board by the close. Being without a specialist spinner, Wessels was obliged to use bowling that came off the bat at a nice pace, and the outfield here is pretty fast.

Donald, too, is given to spraying the ball about. His first four overs, though as quick as anything in the match, cost 25 runs.

But the medium pace of Matthews put a damper on the scoring, and at the start of the last hour de Villiers struck again when he brought one back to bowl Slater. Boon and Mark Waugh were content to paddle along after that.

With five overs left, Boon went to his 47th fifty in 156 Test innings, and the day closed to the distant rumble of thunder. It is not unusual for a storm to break on every day of a match in Johannesburg. That we have not had a drop of rain this time is one of many reasons for an excellent game.



Warne appeals unsuccessfully during South Africa's second innings yesterday

McGinley shows rich promise in defeat

FROM MEL WEBB IN TORREVEJIA, SPAIN

JOSÉ Maria Olazábal's victory in the Turispaña Open Mediterranean here on Sunday, heartening though it was, told nobody much more about the Spaniard than they already knew. The more intriguing feature of the day, indeed the week, was the continuing emergence of the young Irishman, Paul McGinley, as a force in European professional golf.

McGinley, 27, who looked all over a winner when he held a three-stroke lead with two holes to play, was ultimately undone by his lack of experience, but when he has digested the disappointment of defeat at the second hole of a sudden-death play-off, he should distil from it the good things about his performance on the Costa Blanca.

In doing so, he will be able to draw on the wise counsel of Andrew Chandler, his manager, whose huge fount of wisdom built up over 20 years as a tournament professional himself has helped to make McGinley one of the brightest prospects in the game on this side of the Atlantic.

Chandler, who has the highest regard for his young charge, will make sure that McGinley does not take away

negative thoughts from his eventual defeat, while the multi-talented Dubliner will surely come to realise that, although he lost the end-game, for much of the final day he held Olazábal and several other contenders for the £50,000 first prize in check.

McGinley is one of those rare, and for those less talented than he, downright annoying individuals who are good at just about anything they try. As a teenager, he played Gaelic football and hurling,

games which are close to the Irishman's heart, to a good standard, while sacrificing nothing in his endeavours in the realms of academe.

He might never have been a professional golfer had he not suffered a cruel injury which smashed his knee cap when he was 19. He was on crutches for months, and when his knee had healed, he had to accept that his footballing and hurling days were over.

It was then that he turned seriously to golf, a game in

which he claims he had not really had much interest up to then. A measure of what he demands of himself can be gleaned from the fact that at the time he was playing to a handicap of five.

While his body was mending, he was working on his studies and, having got a diploma in marketing, he went to Brussels to work for the European Commission for a year or so. He was becoming a more rounded person, but what he really wanted to do

with his life was to be a professional sportsman, and having got his handicap down to scratch, a door suddenly opened when he was offered the chance to continue his studies while also working on his golf at university in San Diego in California.

He made the greatest possible use of his double-pronged opportunity, emerging with a degree in international business studies, and playing golf well enough to be selected for the 1991 Walker Cup team.

He turned professional immediately after the match, and won the European under-25 championship and earned his Tour card in the same year. Since then, the learning curve has headed consistently upwards and upwards. He twice finished second last year, both times to Costantino Rocca, the Italian Ryder Cup player, who beat him in Lyons, and then, after a play-off, in the French Open.

McGinley, hard-working and ambitious, has made vast progress in a comparatively short space of time, and the way ahead for him is surely bright and lined with promise. A natural athlete? Yes, certainly. A winner? Not yet. But if his performance for 70 holes here is anything to go by, it will not be long in coming.

Huston profits from prophecy

JOHNNY Ray Huston, a 32-year-old American golfer in his seventh year on the US Tour, bears no resemblance to Gypsy Rose Lee but the night before the final round of the Doral-Ryder Open in Miami, he gazed deep into the heart of the glittering crystal trophy and said to his caddy: "I'm going to win that tomorrow."

He did, too, finishing with a 66, to come from four shots behind Billy Andrade and beat him, and Brad Bryant, by three strokes (Patricia Davies writes).

Huston came home alone. He was scheduled to play with Fred Couples but found himself stranded when Couples suffered such severe back

spasms that he could barely move, let alone play. "I was swinging on the range and everything felt great," Couples said. "Then I hit one ball and it felt like my back exploded." He wanted to be fit to defend the Honda Classic in Fort Lauderdale this week but said on Sunday: "It hurts and I can't even sit up."

Huston opted to play on his own but was joined on the 12th tee by Brian Claar, a good friend and fishing companion, who had finished his own round. "I'd just had three birdies in a row but I was happy to see him," Huston, who is a speedy player by nature, said. "It was weird playing by myself and Brian

helped me to slow down and pace myself."

Doral is one of the best tournaments to win, not just because of the massive first prize of \$252,000 (about £170,000). Huston is now top of the money-list and received an invitation to compete in the Johnnie Walker world championship in Jamaica, in December, with its even higher first prize of \$550,000.

Greg Norman, who won this tournament last year, finished tied for seventh this year and gave the performance a rating of four out of ten. Nick Faldo, another perfectionist, would have rated his own efforts even lower after missing the cut.

Rows over UAE cloud success of ICC Trophy

FROM DAVID TOWNSEND IN NAIROBI

THE fifth ICC Trophy ended as it began in Nairobi with controversy raging around the United Arab Emirates team, which walked out of the official dinner on Sunday night.

The winning UAE team of predominantly Pakistani and Indian nationals took exception to comments about its non-indigenous background in a speech by Basheer Mauladad, the Kenya cricket association chairman, and refused to return to the table.

Officials of the International Cricket Council, who were hosting the dinner, attempted to rescue the situation, and Clyde Walcott, the chairman, apologised to the UAE management.

Vikram Kaul, the UAE manager, said: "We have won by the rules and I take the Kenyans' words as a great insult to our country. We are here to play and promote cricket and want nothing to do with this."

Although the UAE players refused to return to the dinner, their managers did and were greeted by a standing ovation.

If Mauladad's comments were delivered insensitively, they did represent the majority view that applauds the World Cup qualification of Kenya and Holland but holds serious doubts about the nature of the UAE's success.

Although the UAE were the best of the 20 teams, senior ICC officials are unhappy that they seem to have ignored the spirit of the competition.

That feeling was not eased by a two-wicket win over a team of home-grown Kenyans in the final, where the only UAE player not to get to the crease was the captain, Sultan Zarawani, the sole Emirati-born player in the squad. His laboured fielding and three overs of poor leg spin did

nothing to quell the suspicion that the UAE's most important victory in this tournament was scored over the ICC's four-year residential rule.

When the victorious team of seven Pakistanis, two Indians and a Sri Lankan lapped the Kenyan ground, the UAE flag flew very much one of convenience.

Madan Lal, the coach, has already hinted that the UAE have better players waiting to qualify for the 1996 World Cup, and if he can find a couple of good bowlers the Gulf state should give Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Zimbabwe a game.

While Kenya have two top-quality batsmen in Maurice Odumbe and Steve Tikolo, they need a better attack to be a threat. There is height and aggression aplenty in the local Masai tribe and, with cricket offering a lifestyle of which most can only dream, it is a fair guess that Kenya could be the next Test-playing nation.

Holland also lack a sharp edge and must try to persuade Andre van Troost of the folly of spending seven years qualifying for England when he could be competing with the best within two.

Without a rapid improvement, none of the three qualifiers are likely to cause an upset and it might have been better to fill one of the World Cup places with a composite team of the best players from the associate member countries.

Otherwise, the first ICC Trophy to be held outside Europe has been a success and distinctly African: the joy and enthusiasm of its people, pipers serenading players, exotic birds circling grounds, superb batting pitches, outfielders as bumpy as a local taxi ride, and, overwhelmingly, a feeling that cricket has a future here.

THE TIMES

Follow the progress of your 1st XI by using the official ICC statistics on this scorecard. Only the international matches between England and West Indies (the five one-day internationals and five Test matches) count. Catches and stumpings made by your designated wicketkeeper count as wickets but catches by any other player do not. At the end of the final match, the difference between predicted totals for each player in each category and their actual totals will be measured in points, one point for each run, and 20 points for each wicket, regardless of whether underestimated or overestimated. The winner will be the person with the fewest points.

No	Name	Runs	Wickets
01	H C Russell	032	01
02	A J Stewart	234	05
03	M A Atherton	326	00
04	G A Hick	286	03
05	N Hussain	026	00
06	M P Maynard	064	00
07	M R Ramprakash	041	00
08	R A Smith	137	00
09	G P Thorpe	034	00
10	A R Caddick	052	06
11	A R C Fraser	005	05
12	A P Iglesden	023	04
13	C C Lewis	057	12
14	D E Malcolm	024	06
15	I D K Salisbury	005	03
16	P R Tufnell	002	03
17	S L Watkin	004	07

MATCHES TO COME: Mar 17-22: Second Test (Sydney); Mar 25-30: Third Test (Trent); Apr 8-13: Fourth Test (Barnardos); Apr 16-21: Fifth Test (Antigua).
Coming on March 14 and running throughout the summer—The Times First Class XI game

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Richards adds to England's options

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND, wearing a smile broader than that of their critics, will name a preliminary squad today for the rugby union match at Twickenham against Wales on March 19 which will decide the five nations championship. It is likely to comprise the 21 from the victorious visit to Paris last weekend plus a handful of others, among them possibly Dean Richards.

Leicester are confident that the No.8 will play in their league meeting with Newcastle Giosforth on Saturday. It would be Richards's first match since he dislocated his elbow at Orrell in mid-January. It may come too late, however, for him to participate against Wales after the strong performance of the back-row trio of Rodber, Clarke and Ojomoh against France.

Dick Best, the England coach, described Ojomoh's game in Paris as "immense", although he remains anxious about the quality of England's scrum. Even though Brian Moore managed two tries against the head on Saturday, England were never able to assert themselves in a game in which they were awarded twice the number of scrums as France. Indeed, they were frequently edged backwards.

For all his positive qualities, Victor Uboqui has yet to convince on the tight-head side, which leaves open the possibility of England switching Jason Leonard from loose-head, as the British Isles did against New Zealand last summer, and introducing Graham Rowntree, of Leicester, who has been a replacement all season.

Wales, pursuing the grand slam, will announce their team on Thursday for a match which will be refereed by Jim Fleming, Scotland's most experienced official. It will be Fleming's seventeenth major international although, curiously, he has never handled an England-Wales game.

Leicester, still chasing a league and cup double, are relieved that Stuart Potter, their centre, suffered no more than heavy bruising playing for England A in Paris. Potter left the field with a suspected broken collarbone and his club was not impressed that he had to wait until his return home before an X-ray could be taken to confirm that there was no structural damage.

However, he is unlikely to play for the Barbarians in the annual Mobbs memorial match tomorrow, against the East Midlands. The Barbarians will have bigger fish to fry next season. They are to play the French Barbarians on September 6 in a match to celebrate 50 years since the Normandy landings and the subsequent liberation of Paris. The match will take place at the Charlety Stadium, home of Paris University Club, which is being redeveloped.

If Pierre Berbizier, coach of the French national team whose championship crown has slipped so badly this season, needed some encouragement, it came with the news yesterday that Gary Armstrong will miss Scotland's match with France at Murrayfield on March 19.

Armstrong, who so dominated play from scrum half during the 6-6 draw with Ireland in Dublin, tore ligaments in his thumb so badly that he will miss virtually the rest of the season. The Scotland team will be announced tomorrow but the French will ponder until the weekend the changes which are, according to Bernard Lapasset, their federation president, inevitable.

Five of the players who performed so well for Ireland in the World Cup seven last year are in the Ireland squad for the Hong Kong tournament on March 26. It will be led by Denis Murphy.

IRELAND SQUAD: R. Wallace (Garryowen), N. Woods (Blackrock College), P. Danaher (Garryowen), E. Elwood (Lansdowne), A. McKeown (Blackrock College), A. Rolland (Blackrock College), D. McBride (Malone), J. Johns (Dunamash), K. Wood (Clontarf), B. Robinson (Ballymarr).



Intrum Justitia rounds Cape Horn in fine style ahead of the Whitbread race fleet yesterday

Smith speeds away from fleet

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL AT CAPE HORN

AS CAPE HORN enjoyed one of those rare occasions of being bathed in sunshine yesterday, Lawrie Smith and his crew on *Intrum Justitia* continued to forge ahead of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet on the final 1,300 miles north to Punta del Este, Uruguay.

For Grant Dalton and his crew aboard the leading maxi, *New Zealand Endeavour*, the best part about their rounding had been to have *Intrum Justitia* in their sights, but within 12 hours they had fallen 18 miles astern in the moderating northerly winds.

Dickson's yacht, *Tokio*, the overall race leader which lost

third place to Ross Field's *Yamaha* during the final run towards the Horn on the fourth leg of the race from Auckland, was still trailing four miles astern as both crews slipped 64 miles behind the European 60-footer.

With the exception of the first two runners many of these crews were robbed by nightfall of a sighting of the infamous Cape.

The first to see it yesterday was Brad Butterworth's American 60-footer, *Winston*, which is in fifth place. But even this crew gave it a wide berth, rounding ten miles to the south.

Last night, Dolphin &

Youth Challenge, the British yacht skippered by Matt Humphreys, rounded shortly before dusk. Her crew are thankful that the weather has remained calm as they are experiencing problems with the yacht's keel fastenings. Yesterday, Humphreys reported no further deterioration with their keel.

POSITIONS (with miles to Punta del Este): *Whitbread 88*: 1. *Intrum Justitia* (UK) 1,300; 2. *New Zealand Endeavour* (NZ) 1,234; 3. *Tokio* (UK) 1,236; 4. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,237; 5. *Winston* (USA) 1,238; 6. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,239; 7. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,240; 8. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,241; 9. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,242; 10. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,243; 11. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,244; 12. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,245; 13. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,246; 14. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,247; 15. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,248; 16. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,249; 17. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,250; 18. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,251; 19. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,252; 20. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,253; 21. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,254; 22. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,255; 23. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,256; 24. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,257; 25. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,258; 26. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,259; 27. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,260; 28. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,261; 29. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,262; 30. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,263; 31. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,264; 32. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,265; 33. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,266; 34. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,267; 35. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,268; 36. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,269; 37. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,270; 38. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,271; 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353. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,586; 354. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,587; 355. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,588; 356. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,589; 357. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,590; 358. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,591; 359. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,592; 360. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,593; 361. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,594; 362. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,595; 363. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,596; 364. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,597; 365. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,598; 366. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,599; 367. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,600; 368. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,601; 369. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,602; 370. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,603; 371. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,604; 372. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,605; 373. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,606; 374. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,607; 375. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,608; 376. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,609; 377. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,610; 378. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,611; 379. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,612; 380. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,613; 381. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,614; 382. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,615; 383. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,616; 384. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,617; 385. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,618; 386. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,619; 387. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,620; 388. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,621; 389. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,622; 390. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,623; 391. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,624; 392. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,625; 393. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,626; 394. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,627; 395. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,628; 396. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,629; 397. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,630; 398. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,631; 399. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,632; 400. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,633; 401. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,634; 402. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,635; 403. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,636; 404. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,637; 405. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,638; 406. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,639; 407. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,640; 408. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,641; 409. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,642; 410. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,643; 411. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,644; 412. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,645; 413. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,646; 414. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,647; 415. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,648; 416. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,649; 417. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,650; 418. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,651; 419. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,652; 420. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,653; 421. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,654; 422. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,655; 423. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,656; 424. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,657; 425. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,658; 426. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,659; 427. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,660; 428. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,661; 429. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,662; 430. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,663; 431. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,664; 432. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,665; 433. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,666; 434. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,667; 435. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,668; 436. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,669; 437. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,670; 438. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,671; 439. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,672; 440. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,673; 441. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,674; 442. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,675; 443. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,676; 444. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,677; 445. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,678; 446. *Yamaha* (JP) 1,679; 447. *Yamaha*

Cardiff fined £25,000 for crowd disorder

CARDIFF CITY Council has been fined £25,000 for crowd disorder following a riot during a football match. The council was found guilty of failing to prevent a riot during a match between Cardiff City and Swansea City at the Cardiff City Stadium on January 15. The riot broke out in the 10th minute of the match, which ended in a 1-1 draw. The council was fined for failing to prevent the riot and for failing to remove the rioters from the stadium. The council has appealed the fine.

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (33175)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (8463040)
 - 9.05 Killy. Topical studio discussion (s) (866750) 9.45 Newsround. Current affairs quiz (s) (845822)
 - 10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (841156) 10.05 Playdays (s) (881514)
 - 10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine (s) (9169798)
 - 12.15 Pebble Mill (120131) 12.55 Regional News and Weather (20789156)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (20040)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (877682)
 - 1.50 The Great British Quiz (s) (8778098)
 - 2.15 Columbus: Last Salute to the Commodore. Patrick McGowan made his debut as a director in this feature-length episode. Columbus is convinced he has found the killer of a wealthy yacht builder, but then his main suspect is murdered. With Peter Falk, Robert Vaughn and Wilford Brimley (875872)
 - 3.50 Teddy Trucks. Animation (3912330) 3.55 Sisk and a Parrot. Crossword puzzle (s) (433875) 4.10 Jackanory. Raymond Briggs's Father Christmas (s) (850438) 4.25 SuperTed (s) (271804)
 - 5.00 Newsround (2504801) 5.10 Grange Hill. School drama. (CeeFax) (s) (890263)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (880688)
 - 6.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (185)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (175)
 - 7.00 Holiday. Reports from the Algarve, Hong Kong, St. Petersburg and Poland. (CeeFax) (s) (2556)
 - 7.30 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (s) (353)
 - 8.00 How Do They Do That? Desmond Lynam reveals more tricks of the trade. (CeeFax) (s) (741137)
 - 8.45 Points of View. (CeeFax) (s) (275205)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (3448)



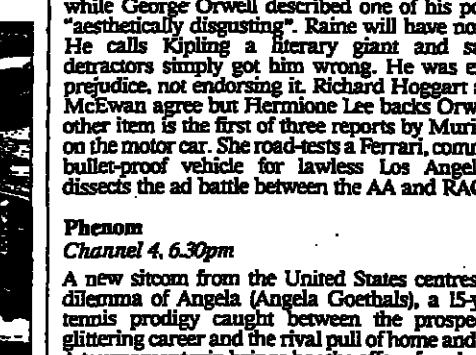
A gunman prepares for a robbery (9.30pm)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University: Maths. Probability and Statistics (703330) 6.45 Working with systems: Diagrams (3070205) 7.10 No Lay-by at 35,000 (300872) 7.35 Developing World (778701)
 - 8.00 Breakfast News (CeeFax) (4003311)
 - 8.15 Westminster Daily (551750)
 - 9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 1.20 The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (2826704) 1.25 Just So Stories (7738363) 1.35-1.40 Rupert the Bear (5584586)
 - 2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (4715715) 2.15 Made by Man (s) (9383735)
 - 2.30 See Heart (s) (CeeFax) (s) (408)
 - 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather followed by Westminster Live (6429755) 3.50 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (9151882)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day. News and nostalgia quiz (s) (208)
 - 4.30 People of the Valley. Welsh language drama serial. Subtitled (s) (972). Wales: Macgregor's Scotland
 - 5.00 Catchword. Word game hosted by Paul Cola (s) (8801)
 - 5.30 Film 94 with Barry Norman (s) (s) (224)
 - 6.00 FILM: Prince Valiant (1954). Robert Wagner is Prince Valiant, forced to flee Scotland, who becomes a knight of King Arthur's Round Table. He aims to help his parents regain their throne, but first he must face the evil Black Knight. Directed by Henry Hathaway (43538243)
 - 7.45 Assignment: Keeping the Cork in the Bottle. (CeeFax) (505040)
 - 8.30 Food and Drink. An update on the meal prepared by the Savoy chef, Anton Edelmann, for the friends of a woman who says she is the worst cook in the world. With Chris Kelly and Oz Clarke (s) (8382)
 - 9.00 Chameleon Leap. Sam finds himself struggling to save his client from the electric chair (CeeFax) (s) (483175)



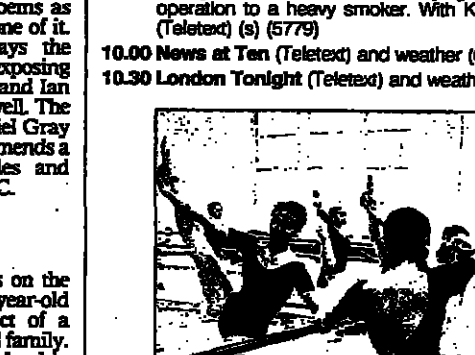
A scavenger drinks a bottle of coke (9.50pm)

- CHOICE**
- The novelist Vikram Seth writes large (BBC1, 10.20pm)
 - Omnibus: A Suitable Boy - Vikram Seth** BBC1, 10.20pm (Scotland: Thursday, 11.30pm) Vikram Seth, whose novel *A Suitable Boy* has become famous for being longer than *War and Peace* and outlasting Jilly Cooper, is the subject of a friendly profile by Nadia Haggard. The agreeable tone is appropriate to the man. Seth is articulate, courteous and self-effacing. When he says he is surprised anyone has had time to read his huge volume, it does not come across as false modesty. His handling of the cast show circuit, the inevitable penalty of publishing type, is impeccable. The film traces his upbringing in India and stresses the importance of his successful and well-known family, not least in providing models for his characters. We also see an early school report which described him, perhaps prophetically, as a genius.
 - Without Walls** Channel 4, 9.00pm The poet Craig Raine defends Rudyard Kipling from charges that he was an imperialist, a racist and a snob. Raine is up against formidable opposition. Kipling was ridiculed by Oscar Wilde and Max Beerbaum while George Orwell described one of his poems as 'aesthetically disgusting'. Raine will have none of it. He is a Kipling scholar, literary giant and says the detractors simply got it wrong. He was a racist, prejudiced, not endorsing it. Richard Hoggart and Ian McEwan agree but Hermione Lee backs Orwell. The other item is the first of three reports by Muriel Gray on the motor car. She road-tests a Ferrari, commends a diesel-proof vehicle for lawless Los Angeles and dissects the ad battle between the AA and RAC.
 - Phenomen** Channel 4, 6.30pm A new sitcom from the United States centres on the dilemma of Angela (Angela Goethals), a 15-year-old prodigy caught between the prospect of a glittering career and the rival pull of home and family. A tournament with her father for the title of 'champion' at a tennis academy run by Lou Della Rossa (William Devane), a smarmy coach with a mouth full of gleaming teeth. Angela is unsure whether to succumb to his enticing patter or listen to Mum (Judith Light) who wants Angela to grow up as a normal child. On the evidence of this pilot episode we are in for a benign family farce which seems likely to dislodge the potential seriousness of its subject, the exploitation of young athletes, in a stream of innocuous jokes.
 - Assignment: Keeping the Cork in the Bottle** BBC2, 7.45pm Having conquered the world economically, Japan could next be turning to political and military domination. At least, that is what many fear, both within the country and, not least, in the United States. Julian Pettifer's thoughtful and wide-ranging report paints a picture of a country which is not so much 'Japan' as a collection of islands. The constitution forbids them. Instead it is 'self-defence' forces. But the euphemism is fooling nobody. A current debate is over whether the constitution should be changed to permit Japanese involvement in United Nations peacekeeping initiatives. Beyond this lies the prospect that if her neighbour North Korea develops nuclear weapons Japan will find it hard to hold back. Peter Waymark



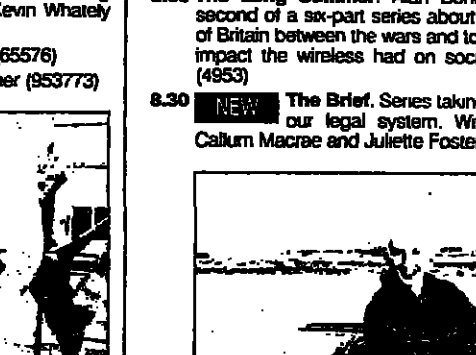
The novelist Vikram Seth writes large (BBC1, 10.20pm)

- ITV LONDON**
- 6.00 GMTV (8338972)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. (s) (3880653)
 - 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8967934)
 - 10.00 The Time... The Place... (s) (882801)
 - 10.35 This Morning (19153137) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7558750)
 - 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (9657088)
 - 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (9632779) 1.25 Home and Away. (Teletext) (57282392)
 - 1.55 It's a Vets' Life. Includes a visit to the Tortoise Trust. (Teletext) (9632971) 2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama (s) (93134243) 2.50 The Young Doctors (887243)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (8331175) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (830444)
 - 3.30 Rainbow (4360359) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (8158224) 3.50 The Little Prince (19153137) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (8861175) 4.40 The Tomorrow People. (Teletext) (5760088)
 - 5.10 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (4911446)
 - 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (891750)
 - 6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (223359)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (7883)
 - 7.30 Gangsters. How the Kray twins used violence and intimidation to become undisputed bosses of London's gangland (s) (422)
 - 8.00 The Bill. DI Johnson is surprisingly uneasy when a body is found and the killer's identity is known. (Teletext) (6311)
 - 8.30 September Song. Russ Abbot plays a widowed teacher who tries to rekindle romance with an old flame, Diana Quick, on a Greek cruise (Teletext) (s) (594)
 - 9.00 Peak Practice. The doctors at The Beches try to persuade the police marks at a local hospital to change their minds about denying a life-saving operation to a heavy smoker. With Kevin Whately (Teletext) (s) (579)
 - 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (65576)
 - 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (853773)



First steps on the dance ladder (10.40pm)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Jayco and the Wheeled Warriors (s) (3074021)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast. (10663)
 - 9.00 Sabotage. All-female quiz show (s) (75853)
 - 9.30 Schools. Eureka! Toys and Games (1445327) 9.45 Shop, Look, Listen: Where You Live (583412) 10.00 Fourways Farm (5428446) 10.10 Visual World (428251) 10.22 Timelines (1165555) 10.44 Living and Growing (7257789) 11.00 Science in Focus (6703251) 11.22 Stage One. Toy Technology (8882778) 11.40 Time Capsule (1280040)
 - 12.00 House to House. Political news and views from Westminster with Maya Evans (95717)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. With Andrea Mann and Ziggy Marley (35040) 1.30 Whodunnit. Carlton (s) (85473)
 - 2.00 FILM: Bitter Sweet (1940). Based on Noel Coward's operetta about a young girl who shocks her family when she runs off to Vienna with her music teacher on the eve of her marriage. With Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. Directed by W.S. Van Dyke II (516882)
 - 3.40 On a Wing and a Prayer. An account of the life of the aviator, Amelia Earhart (s) (4348137)
 - 3.55 A Brush With Art. Alwyn Crawshaw visits Paington Zoo and shows how to sketch large animals (s) (Teletext) (7027601)
 - 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (840)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. One of her guests says he can tell the colour of a person's car from their age and occupation while another claim about the key to personality. (Teletext) (s) (1012886)
 - 5.50 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (532601)
 - 6.00 Batman (205)
 - 6.30 **CHOICE** (885)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (196175)
 - 7.50 Comment (Teletext) (341427)
 - 8.00 The Long Summer. Alan Bennett narrates the second of a six-part series about the development of Britain between the wars and tonight looks at the impact the wireless had on society (s) (Teletext) (4953)
 - 8.30 **NEW** The Brief. Series taking a critical look at our legal system. With David Jessel, Callum Macrae and Juliette Foster (Teletext) (3088)



Muriel Gray looks at car culture (8.00pm)

- SATELLITE**
- 6.00 The DJ at the DJ Show (8337582) 8.40 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 8.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 8.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 8.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 9.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 9.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 9.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 10.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 10.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 10.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 11.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 11.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 11.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 12.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 12.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 12.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 1.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 1.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 1.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 2.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 2.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 2.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 3.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 3.30 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 3.50 Lamb Crops Play-Along (2143089) 4.10 Lamb Crops Play-Along 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Venables selects Platt for leading role

Gascoigne voices determination to take on Denmark

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FOR both personal and professional reasons, Terry Venables made the best possible start to managing England yesterday. At Bisham Abbey, he put on a black tracksuit and looked at ease with the world after a turbulent eight months. He chose David Platt as his captain for the match against Denmark tomorrow, the first step to rehabilitating England, which no longer regards itself as a leading football nation.

The appointment of Platt, barring injury or dramatic loss of form, is permanent. Venables indicated as much when he spoke of sharing with his captain four games before the end of the season and then, "David and I sitting down together, both of us knowing more about what we want".

Platt, the man and the player, is by some distance the right selection, even though Venables said yesterday morning that he had wrestled with the problem of choosing one captain from five for two to three weeks.

This was probably just the coach doing everything in his verbal power to raise the self-esteem of others. Who would want to continue with the captaincy of Pearce, the marauder? That insular aspect of English football, that clenched

first notion of intimidating better teams towards defeat that he embodied, has well and truly been rubbed.

Then there was the danger of appointing Adams who, for all his solidity in the Arsenal defence, remains a defender likely to be found wanting by the guile of the best international forwards. Apparently, Venables also considered Ince, despite his volatile temperament. Who else? Gascoigne.

Well, Gascoigne is, as Platt readily concedes, a huge talent, an inspiration and a fighting spirit when on song. Alas, it is not clear whether he would be clown or captain, and though one hopes sincerely that he will get over his weekend wounds by tomorrow, he may never mature sufficiently to ensure that he will stay on the field for 90 minutes, let alone find an armband to fit around his ample biceps.

A captain who breaks wind into a microphone England definitely does not need. The worst indiscretion of Platt was at a wedding speech some years ago that embarrassed the bride's family with innuendo. Since then, on his seven appearances as England captain and on every other occasion when he has shared hour upon hour with the media, he has impressed as a young man who is articulate, well behaved and tactically aware.

It was Graham Taylor, no less, who spoke of Platt, while they were together at Aston Villa, as "the captain because he is the one player who gives you intelligence in any part of the field where it is needed". Exactly. By his adaptability and his industry, Platt is able to put his own body at the pulse of a team's need, to shape and change the pattern, to sublimate his own performance for the greater cause.

How often do you find that? In England's case, just once. Venables put his finger on another virtue yesterday. "He gets the nod because David is in international football every week, he appreciates the importance of team play," the coach said.

And all the shouting and screaming I could do on the touchline. I would like a player to be able to translate my thoughts on the field. To



Venables and Platt, the England coach and newly appointed captain respectively, in discussion during the training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday

do that, David has to examine my thoughts, and then come out with them during the play."

The two sat together for the first time in Genoa three weeks ago and during a long lunch, the "gaffer" and his intended lieutenant discovered they had more in common than merely the English game. This, again, is of paramount importance to England. The country's obsession, blinkered approach to football has grown stale in the world, and while it may not be necessary for the

captain of a football team to be a mastermind or a diplomat of foreign office tight-lipped qualities, it is time that we had leaders on and off the field able to put the game into international perspective.

At training yesterday the signs were encouraging. Venables was ever watchful. His expressive eyes were alert again, gone was some of the understandably suspicious looks that have been with him almost daily while accusation and counter-accusation has passed between him and his former club, Tottenham. He

pulled aside Platt, Adams, and others on the short-list for the captaincy, and body language announced before the words that Platt was his choice. When Gascoigne arrived in mid-session, the coach put a concerned, fatherly arm around his playmaker.

Gascoigne, dishevelled and unshaven, nevertheless looked remarkably whole. There was no broken rib, no fractured wrist, not even the allegedly broken tear ducts that had been reported from Rome the previous night. "I was in pain, but never, ever, in tears."

Gascoigne said. "The rib is sore, I twisted it against Sampdoria a few weeks ago, and I got clattered, then stamped upon, against Roma on Sunday. Breathing is still difficult, but I badly want to play."

"I'll do what's best for England, and not myself. Lazio said nothing to me. I think they just expect me to use my head." At that, growing up, Gascoigne grinned hugely and added: "I haven't done it before, maybe I'll try this time."

Trying all of the time was

the coach, Don Howe, back on England duty. What a pity his wisdom was ever eschewed by Taylor, for now, the heart bypass Howe needed six years ago is a distant memory; aged 58, he bounds through training with a boy's zest. Close by, Bryan Robson sits quietly with Platt, the old England captain beginning to impart knowledge and experience to the new.

"I enjoy the responsibility of captaincy," Platt concluded. "I think of it as the greatest honour you can get in football ... and to be a success, it

would be nice two years from now to lift the European championship trophy."

□ Arsenal's Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final opponents, Torino, have been summoned to a disciplinary hearing by Uefa, the game's European governing body, after allegations that the Italian club offered prostitutes to referees at matches. Uefa has said it could expel Torino from the competition because of the affair.

Official worries, page 46
Cardiff fined, page 46

DAVID PLATT

Born: Chadderton, June 10 1966.
1984: Joined Man Utd as an apprentice.
1985: Released by Ron Atkinson; joined Crewe on loan transfer.
1988: Signed by Graham Taylor for Aston Villa for £200,000 after scoring 53 goals in 134 League appearances for Crewe.
1989: Made England debut as substitute v Italy at Wembley.
1990: Voted player of the year by fellow professionals after scoring three goals to help England reach World Cup semi-finals.
1991: Sold to Bari for £5.5m after scoring 50 goals in 121 League games for Villa.
1992: Sold to Juventus for £5.5m after 26 games in Serie A for Bari (12 goals).
1993: Captained England for first time, against San Marino at Wembley, scoring four goals. Joined Sampdoria for £5.2m, taking combined fees to record £17.4m.
1994: Appointed England captain by Terry Venables.

ENGLAND'S POST-WAR CAPTAINS (with number of games in which they led their country): 1. B. Moore, 30; 2. Wright, 65; 3. Robson, 31; 4. Keegan, 23; 5. Hughes, 22; 6. Hennessey, 18; 7. G. Lineker, 15; 8. J. Armitage, 12; 9. G. Hargreaves, 10; 10. R. Williams, 8; 11. G. Francis, 6; 12. S. Pearce, 7; 13. D. Platt, 6; 14. A. Bell, 5; 15. Thompson, 5; 16. C. Taylor, 4; 17. J. Peters, 3; 18. F. Flower, 2; 19. D. Wilson, 2; 20. M. Charlton, 1; 21. P. Ince, 1; 22. P. Beardsley, 1; 23. T. Cherry, 1; 24. C. Clemence, 1; 25. M. Mulvey, 1; 26. N. Wright, 1.



Starting next week a new game for readers, The Times First Class XI, which will run throughout the English cricket season. Check your progress in the current First XI game, on page 43.

Rabbit turns hare to lead elite field home

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

Paul Pilkington, 35, a teacher from northern Utah, delighted American spectators and mortified the high-class international field behind him by winning the Los Angeles marathon on Sunday in the fourth-fastest time in the history of the race.

For he was never meant to cross the finish line. He had been paid \$3,000 (about £2,000) to act as the race's "rabbit" — to set the pace for the first 25km and then drop out. But, after fulfilling his contractual obligations, Pilkington looked over his shoulder, saw that nobody was challenging his two-minute lead, and thought: "Why stop?"

Meanwhile, the race favourite, Luca Barzaghi, from Italy, thought he was winning. He still thought so as he crossed

the line, and was beginning to wonder what had happened to the television crews, cameras and applause when a silver medal was draped around his neck.

At the post-race press conference Barzaghi sulked. "I thought the rabbit had dropped out. I thought I had won. I was keeping my own pace. I was not running against him," Pilkington's agent was in no mood for banding out olive branches. "Hey, man, get a brain," he said. "You've got to be smart enough to know you aren't in first place."

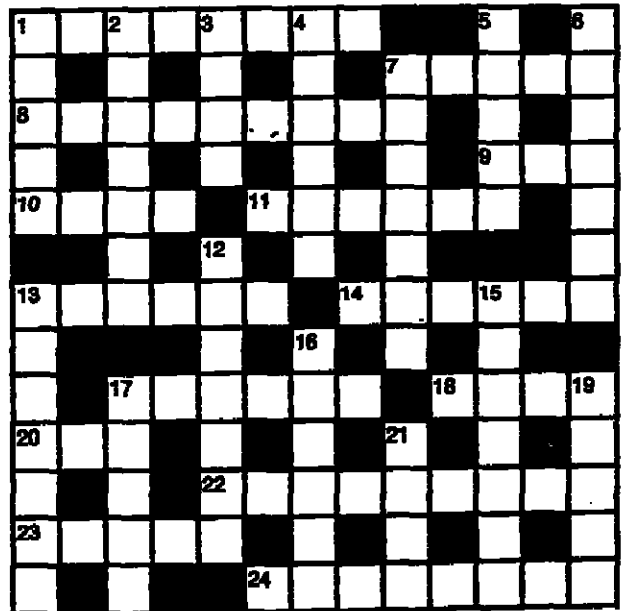
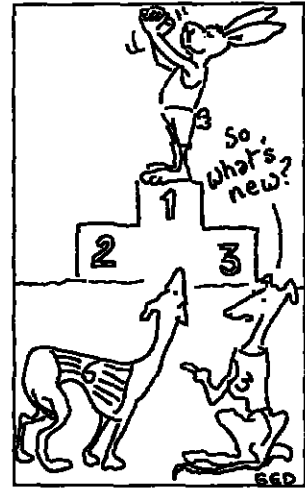
Pilkington himself was way past caring, having led a field of 19,000 over the entire 26.2-mile course, and won the entire \$15,000 and a car in addition to his rabbit fee. It made a change from the unusual role of pacemaker, which he has performed five times before, including twice in New York and last year in Los Angeles.

When not running, Pilkington teaches creative writing to troubled teenagers in the Utah town of Roy. Until Sunday, pace-making was just a useful source of extra income. Now he has the US Track and Field national marathon title and a \$12,000 bonus in his sights.

He is not the first American pacemaker to embarrass distinguished distance runners and their tactical manoeuvrings. In the 1981 Dream Mile at the Bissett Stadium in Oslo, the former Ohio college runner, Tom Byers, beat Steve Ovett and Steve Cram by refusing to drop out.

Pilkington won the marathon with 39 seconds to spare, in 2hr 12min 13sec. "I just got more and more relaxed," he said. "And nobody seemed to be able to go with me."

Jackson's record chase, page 46



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: Crosswords on computer (extra 60 puzzles per title — enhanced graphics and help facilities) for all IBM and Acorn PCs. Price £14.95 each. Range includes: The Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. The Times Concise Crosswords — 3 & 4. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. The Times Concise Crosswords 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords 17. The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords — Vols 5 & 6 £14.95 each (see page 10).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 107

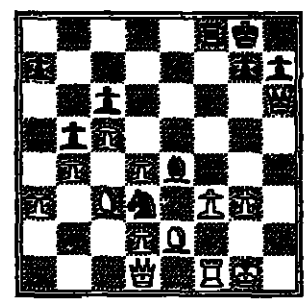
- ACROSS
1 Salvage dignity (4,4)
7 Of birds (5)
8 Demolish remnants (6,3)
9 Tiny taste of drink (3)
10 Shivering fit (4)
11 Typically Swiss house (6)
13 Elegant cavalierman (6)
14 Stress; mark over vowel (6)
17 Kipling's schoolboy; tall and slender (6)
18 Boundary (4)
20 Gratitude (3)
22 Accommodating (9)
23 Bring up (5)
24 Hairdresser (8)
- DOWN
1 Dark pigment from cuttlefish (5)
2 Plush, felt-like fabric (7)
3 Bother (4)
4 Bell-shaped plant protector (6)
5 Ahead of all (5)
6 Look closely at (7)
7 Cause pain or grief (7)
12 Drapery round base of bed (7)
13 Study of the past (7)
15 Beckett play; chess phase (3-4)
16 Arms on hips, elbows out (6)
17 Booty (5)
19 Fur in (5)
21 Symbol indicating pitch of staff (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 106

ACROSS: 1 Hunger 5 Strike 8 Lent 9 Trivium 10 Drapery 11 Beryl 13 Hard and fast 16 Quest 18 Implore 21 Octocoon 22 Shaw 23 Severe 24 Strong
DOWN: 2 Unearth 3 Get up 4 Rotarian 5 Safe 6 Riviera 7 Kitty 12 Oddments 14 Rissolo 15 Terrain 17 Uncle 19 Laser 20 Core

By Raymond Keene

In honour of the category 18 Linares tournament, in progress in Spain, this week we are concentrating on positions from previous events. Today's position is from the game Salvo-Gelfand, Linares 1992. Black has a powerful attack for his two pawns, but his bishop is threatened. What is his best reply?



Solution, page 44
Raymond Keene, page 6

By Philip Howard

FASTINGONG
a. The Crimea campaign medal
b. Shrove Tuesday
c. With all haste
GARNISON
a. Defence
b. A garland of leaves
c. An adopted son

TANNAKIN
a. A small pewter cup
b. An Indonesian language
c. Little Ann
UMBELLATE
a. Arranged like an umbrella
b. Not warlike
c. Jealous

Answers on page 44

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